

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Stone age
Roger Scruton mourns
that "greatest of
peacetime catastrophes",
the rise of modern
architecture

Blurred lines
Fashion Page on the new
styles in cross-dressing



Tripped up
The acid reign, Part 11:
the fall of the LSD
empire

Batmen
John Woodcock reports
from Taunton on the
outcome of the match
between cricket's two
controversial
beneficiaries, Botham
and Boycott

Sudan in state of emergency

A state of emergency was
proclaimed throughout Sudan
by President Gaafar Nimeiry.
Omdurman radio said all
demonstrations were banned
and certain articles of the
constitution suspended.

Britain found dead, page 5

Party confusion at the polls

Some parties do not know how
many candidates they are
fielding in Thursday's local
council elections, our Local
Government Correspondent
reports in the first of three
scene-setting articles. Page 4

Disney battle

A takeover battle for Walt
Disney Productions appears
more likely after the news that
a leading financier has taken a big
stake in the US film and leisure
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Air fare action

Pickfords Travel is planning to
challenge the "bucket shops" in
the cut-price airline ticket
market with its own shops and
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Seat belts save

Hospitals are treating 20 per
cent fewer car crash casualties
than before the wearing of
seatbelts became compulsory, a
survey has found. Page 3

Irish initiative

The Irish Republic is to launch
a diplomatic offensive to
promote a report on the New
Ireland Forum which is ex-
pected to be published this week.
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School disruption

School-children start their
summer term today, with the
prospect of their teachers taking
industrial action over pay. A
one-day strike is planned for
May 9. Page 2

Italian quake

Rome (Reuters) - An earth-
quake damaged buildings in
central Italy early yesterday but
there were no reports of serious
casualties. Assisi in Umbria
province was worst hit.

Deaths inquiry

The Premier of South Australia
called for an inquiry into
allegations that four Aborigines
died as a result of secret British
nuclear test. Page 4

Budd's real test

Zola Budd will run against the
world class Norwegians, Grete
Waitz and Ingrid Kristiansen,
in a 10-kilometre road race in
Oslo next Sunday. Page 19

Clark's Open

Howard Clark, the Yorkshire
golfer, won the Madrid Open
yesterday with a final round
score of 71. It was his first
victory for six years. Page 19

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Coal board seeks compromise on pit closure talks

By Paul Routledge and Philip Webster

The National Coal Board is working on compromise proposals to put to the miners as their strike against pit closures goes into its eighth week, establishing a record as the biggest stoppage in the industry since the General Strike of 1926.

Mr Ned Smith, the coal board's director-general of industrial relations, has indicated that the critical issue of colliery closures and job cutbacks could be moved back from national negotiations to area discussions if the National Union of Mineworkers agrees to early consultations.

The decision on pits should be left to the areas, he said. Questions of how many men would be redundant and how many could be transferred to long-life mines should be handled by unions and management at area level within agreed procedure. "The timing and scale could be adjusted there", he said.

His comments mark a step away from the coal board's March 6 announcement that 20,000 jobs had to go within a year through the closure of 4 million tonnes of capacity and will be seized upon by union moderates searching for common ground on which to open talks with the board.

However, Mr Peter Heathfield, the union's general secretary, was adamant last night that the miners would not take part in a round-table conference on pit closures with other unions in the industry.

"There will be no discussions involving the NUM that are

centred on closing any pits other than those that are exhausted and those that have bad geology and are creating problems of safety for the men employed in them", he argued.

But if the board withdrew its nationally-declared intention to shut 20 pits with the loss of 20,000 jobs "that presents

opportunities", he added. "If they withdraw the list there may be some agreement on an agenda to talk."

But while the board wants eventually to implement its original "slidown" objectives, the miners are still seeking expansion of the industry and a capital reconstruction to minimize the burden of debt.

Union leaders are also stepping up their efforts to halt the 25 pits still working in the moderate Nottinghamshire coalfield.

The Yorkshire miners' president Mr Jack Taylor, admitted at the weekend that the determination of moderate colliers had hit the union hard.

He told a May Day rally in Doncaster: "I am confident that sooner or later the Nottingham men will be persuaded to come into line, but make no mistake about it, the cost of their defiance has been enormous both financially and in terms of moral."

And Mr Arthur Scargill, the union president, told a rally in Sutton in Ashfield last night that many more strikers should man the picket lines.

Mr Roy Hattersley yesterday agreed with Mr Scargill that the Nottinghamshire miners should be on strike, but Labour's deputy leader was critical of Mr Scargill's handling of the dispute.

Giving the Labour leadership's strongest public backing so far for the dispute, Mr Hattersley declared that if he was a Nottinghamshire miner he would be on strike. It is easy for me to make that judgment because I am not a Nottinghamshire miner. The emotion as well as the rationality of the argument would have brought me out, but I am not going to preach to the Nottingham miners."

By any standards, it was a national strike, but tactically as well as democratically a ballot would have been the right thing. He also felt there were real ideological differences between Mr Scargill and most of the miners.

"This argument, this battle, this strike is not an ideological strike", Mr Hattersley said in an interview on London Weekend Television's *Weekend World* programme. "It is not about revolution, the nature of society or overthrowing the government."

If the miners were asked to go on strike to overthrow Mrs Thatcher they would laugh at their leaders. "The strike is about the coal industry. The strike is for industrial objectives and not for political objectives. I am wholly opposed to the view that you take direct action to bring governments down."

Libyan bureau siege aftermath

Demands grow for inquiry

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

Demands for a full-scale official inquiry into the siege of the Libyan People's Bureau grew yesterday from politicians of all parties, but still appeared likely to be resisted by the Government in the Commons this week.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, who is expected to make a statement to MPs tomorrow, yesterday defended the Government's handling of the siege, replied to critics whom he said were being wise after the event, and said that until the siege there was no firm evidence available to the Government to suggest that terrorism had been ordered from the bureau.

The Prime Minister is known to be opposed to the setting up of an inquiry similar to that conducted by Lord Franks into the Falklands war, but other party leaders have made clear their view that an independent inquiry is necessary.

Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, citing a report in *The Times* on Saturday quoting a senior administration source as saying that an intercepted message sent by cable from Libya shortly before the shooting of Woman Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher "may be a story of missed opportunity", said the country was entitled to an investigation to determine exactly what intelligence had been available to the Government.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, the shadow home secretary, is to call for a formal inquiry.

Continued on back page, col 5

Police in search for guns and explosives

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Police explosives experts, forensic scientists and detectives were expected to start searching the Libyan People's Bureau at first light today. The bureau lost its diplomatic status at midnight.

Final plans were made by Scotland Yard yesterday to discover any arms or explosives in the St James's Square premises and to try to pinpoint from where on the first floor a gunman killed WPC Yvonne Fletcher. The spot will be examined for any fresh clues.

At the end of the siege last week the Yard announced that it would not approach the bureau at night because of fears that the Libyans might leave booby-traps.

Yesterday, the building was occupied until midnight by Mr Abdelghadir Kiaralla, one of the Libyan diplomats who will look after his country's interests via the Saudi Arabian embassy. Mr Kiaralla said the building contained files and documents. No rooms or cupboards had been locked.

Under diplomatic regulations nothing that looked should be tampered with. The police said observers would be invited to enter the bureau with them. The most likely candidate is a member of the Saudi embassy, which represents Libyan interests.

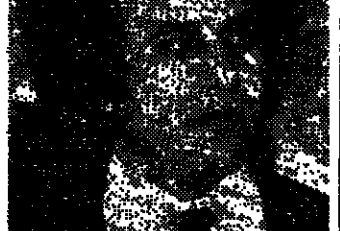
The first stage is likely to be carried out by dog handlers with German shepherds and Labrador retrievers trained to sniff out explosives. The police may use instruments to detect explosives.

If any of the Yard's specialist explosives unit will defuse the device. It is likely to have remote control equipment and the expertise of the Army on call.

Once the bureau has been

declared safe the Yard's scientists will probably be able to tell whether it has been "used recently to harbour guns or explosives. On the first floor an inch-by-inch examination will determine evidence of the shooting.

Until the bureau is clear of any risk the square will continue to be restricted to those who work in offices there. But some buildings close to the



Abd Al-Rahman Shaibi, who led the Libyan departure supervisors, leaving Heathrow Airport yesterday.

bureau will be closed today and no one is to use rooms overlooking the square or streets close by for fear of an explosion.

Faced with continuing reports yesterday that the police know the identity of the gunman, Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, said that he was not aware of any name.

Police efforts were not helped by Libyans in the bureau, who at one stage during the siege led the police to believe the killer had escaped.

Mr Brittan revealed that 19 of the 30 Libyans in the bureau had diplomatic status.



Sunshine princess: The Princess of Wales at Windsor yesterday where she watched the Prince of Wales play polo.

BA to sell shares to employees

By Jonathan Davis
Financial Correspondent

British Airways' 37,000 employees are to have the chance to buy shares in the airline on a save-as-you-earn basis when it is privatized next spring.

The money will be deducted from wages over five years and lodged in a trust fund until employees have paid enough to qualify for outright ownership - and therefore for shareholder rewards such as dividend payments.

The scheme is part of the Government's campaign to encourage wider employee share ownership in businesses when they are denationalized.

Final details are being worked out between the airline, the Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry. Better-off employees will have the chance to buy shares outright.

BA's employees stand to receive a different financial bonus this week when the airline reports its 1983 results. Lord King, the chairman, has already forecast an operating profit of between £250m and £270m, against £174m in 1982.

BA staff will receive a bonus of two weeks' wages, under a profit-sharing scheme introduced last autumn. Stewards earning £5,000 a year will receive about £240, with pilots and other highly-paid staff receiving bonuses of £1,000 or more.

The £250m profit is regarded as the minimum needed to ensure an enthusiastic welcome for the airline from stock market investors.

The Government is expected to spend as much as £10m on an advertising campaign to encourage telephone subscribers to buy British Telecom shares.

£10m campaign, page 4

Olympic flame via satellite

From Mario Modiano
Athens

In the absence of Greek relay runners, the Olympic flame is to be sent from ancient Olympia directly to the United States care of the Greek Post Office.

The Greek Olympic Committee cancelled the traditional lighting of the flame and its relay by runners to Athens, after the educational and sports authorities here decided to boycott the ceremonies as a protest against what they called the commercial exploitation of the Olympic flame relay in the US.

Now, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has assigned Professor Nikos Nisiotis, one of its Greek members, to go to the Coubertin Grove in ancient Olympia, light the flame and hand it to a representative of the organizing committee of the Los Angeles Olympic Games.

He, in turn, by arrangement with the local post office, will transmit the flame to New York by telephone impulse through satellites.

President Karamanlis stepped into the controversy last week to ensure that the state authorities would not withhold their cooperation from the IOC in securing the transfer of the flames.

Mr Spyros Fetsinis, the left-wing Mayor of Olympia, who had threatened demonstrations to stop the flame from leaving, is now proposing that delivery of the flame should be withheld by Greece until July 20, the day of the opening of the games, so that the flame is sent by laser beam directly to the stadium to prevent its relay by commercially sponsored runners.

Pretoria facing oil deal scandal

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg

Claims that South Africa's oil purchasing agency, the Strategic Fuel Fund, has been involved in shady deals which have cost the country £220m more than it needed to spend, were threatening to explode into a big corruption scandal at the weekend.

A dossier handed to Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, by Dr Frederick Van Zyl Slabbert, Leader of the Opposition, lists the names of five senior officials. It is based on information given to Dr Van Zyl Slabbert anonymously, but which, he has told Parliament, appears to be "merely the tip of the iceberg".

Mr Botha told Parliament last week that "not one of my ministers is under suspicion. Not a single state official is under suspicion".

Although the National Intelligence Service had investigated and found no evidence of corruption, the allegations had been referred to the Advocate-General.

Because of boycotts, South Africa cannot buy oil in the normal way. The SFF, unlike other government bodies, which must account to the Auditor-General how they spend public money, does not come under his scrutiny.

According to the dossier handed over by the Opposition Leader, the SFF has paid £220m more than the contract prices in deals with Mr Marek Rich, an American commodities trader, and Mr John Deuss, a Dutchman.

Mr Rich, who is based in Zug, Switzerland, is wanted by the American authorities on tax evasion charges amounting to \$48m (£32m), the biggest in American history.

Mr Deuss, who visits South Africa several times a year, is being sued by the Russian oil company, Sojuzneft Export, over contracts said to involve large sums.

Dr Van Zyl Slabbert said his dossier claimed that the SFF dealt only with Mr Rich and Mr Deuss, although it could have been obtained more cheaply from other sources.

Rain forecast for south

Rain at times, particularly in the south of England, was predicted for tomorrow after the prolonged dry sunny spell. The weather bureau said that an approaching front will bring rain to the south-west early tomorrow and that this rain will spread to the rest of the country during the day.

Another weekend of blazing sunshine has helped make this month one of the sunniest Aprils on record. The warmest place in Britain over the weekend was the west coast of Scotland, where temperatures reached 22C (72F) on Saturday.

But records are falling in England: Devon has already enjoyed the most April sunshine for 46 years, and the London Weather Centre reported yesterday that central London has had its sunniest April since figures were first collected in 1929.

The dry spell has brought difficulties particularly in rural areas. Many parts of Britain have had no rain for almost three weeks. The West Country has been placed on drought alert, with loudspeakers vans touring towns and villages asking people to conserve supplies. Forecast, back page

Which of these languages would you like to speak?

Tick the one you want to speak in 3 months' time!

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Afrikaans | <input type="checkbox"/> Icelandic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American English | <input type="checkbox"/> Indonesian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arabic (Modern) | <input type="checkbox"/> Irish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese (Mandarin) | <input type="checkbox"/> Italian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Danish | <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dutch | <input type="checkbox"/> Malay |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English | <input type="checkbox"/> Norwegian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English (Intermediate) | <input type="checkbox"/> Polish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English (Advanced) | <input type="checkbox"/> Portuguese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finnish | <input type="checkbox"/> Russian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French | <input type="checkbox"/> Serbo-Croat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French (Intermediate) | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish (of Latin America) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> German | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish (Castilian) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> German (Intermediate) | <input type="checkbox"/> Swedish |
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Elton, in stetson and earring, calls on Lech

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

The Gdansk high-rise estate of Zaspas, which shelters the cramped flat of Mr Lech Walesa, is a bleak urban wasteland, scarred by vandals and miles from anywhere. In the interests of political camouflage, Elton John shed his normal garb of straw boater, red frock coat and bow tie and put on an inconspicuous Texan stetson and a fetching diamond earring.

On the street, few people realized that the chairman of Watford football club was en route to meet the chairman of the outlawed solidarity union. It was just an ordinary sort of chap in stetson and an earring.

Mr Walesa kept the British rock star waiting in the living room. He looked nervous, having heard all the stories about communist secret police. Freshly shaven, Mr Walesa came in with his characteristic speeded-up Charlie Chaplin walk.



Gdansk meeting: Lech Walesa honours Elton John's stetson as they exchange autographs in Mr Walesa's flat

"Ahey pal," said the rock star.

"I want to say," said Mr Walesa, "that I'm glad you could visit me in this situation,

The rock star plumped down on the sofa underneath the portrait of the Pope. "Tea or coffee?" asked Mr Walesa.

"Tea would be just fabulous, Lech."

Elton John is on the final stage of a tour of Eastern Europe made, he assured some, at a financial loss to give him the chance of finding out about life in the communist bloc. He wanted the meeting on Saturday with Mr Walesa out of pure curiosity. Mr Walesa accepted out of pure politeness.

The two met for an hour and discussed, according to Mr Walesa, football. But some hints that politics was on the agenda came in the small talk before they threw out the reporters.

The politics began earnest at the concert in the Olivia Hall - scene of the 1981 Solidarity congress which elected Mr Walesa chairman - when Mr Walesa, clutching his free ticket from Elton, took up his position near the stage.

"Long live Walesa!" shouted a handful of supporters. Others clamoured for autographs.

Then the British star skipped onto the stage, more comfortable now in his red frock coat, and flashed a little V-for-Victory sign, the symbol of Solidarity demonstrators.

At the front, around Mr Walesa, young Poles replied in kind, smoke bombs, strangely reminiscent of teargas, emitted green and grey palls and the music smothered any further political sentiment.

"The only way I can bring people together is through music. It's not like your 'business'." Elton had modestly told Mr Walesa before the concert. Yesterday Mr Walesa was extremely polite about Elton John. "I liked him, I tried to put him at his ease. It has been marvellous - but I think I have very sensitive ears - I can still hear a loud buzzing noise in my ears."

Seatbelt law cuts number of hospital casualties by a fifth, survey shows

By Thomson Prentice,
Science Correspondent

Hospitals are now treating 20 per cent fewer car crash casualties and the number of accident victims requiring in-patient treatment has fallen by more than 35 per cent since the wearing of seat belts became compulsory, according to the preliminary findings of a medical survey.

The study is still continuing, but already supports Department of Transport figures showing 475 fewer deaths and 7,000 fewer injuries between February of last year, when the law took effect, and December, compared with the same period of 1982.

The study also shows marked decreases in the numbers of brain injuries, serious chest and kidney injuries, arm fractures and superficial injuries to the face and limbs for crash victims in the front seats of cars.

The findings are based on data for the months of February to July, 1983, compared with the same six months of last year. Fifteen hospitals and more than 6,600 casualties are considered in the preliminary report.

FRONT-SEAT CASUALTIES	Feb-July Feb-July	
	1982	1983
	(%)	(%)
Died in hospital	0.57	0.43
Surviving admissions	18.01	14.25
Surviving outpatients	64.02	66.03

Comparison of injuries		%	
		1982	1983
Facial wounds	15.19	8.72	(-42%)
Concussion	13.76	9.21	(-33%)
Fractured skull	0.82	0.54	(-34%)
Internal chest inj's	1.33	0.47	(-65%)
Sprained necks	13.54	20.09	(+49%)

The organizer of the study, Mr William Rutherford, consultant in accident and emergency medicine at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, said: "The undoubted success of seatbelt legislation should not obscure the fact that death and injury on the roads are still unacceptably high."

Tomorrow, Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, will introduce a private member's Bill calling for

the mandatory fitting of rear seatbelts in new cars.

Rear seatbelts would save an additional 300 lives a year, including about 100 front seat passengers who are killed by the impact of unrestrained rear passengers during road accidents, Mr Mitchell believes.

"There is still enormous scope for improvement in car passenger safety and it is high time that rear belts were more widely available", he said. "They would protect those 22,000 or more passengers who are injured in the rear seats of cars every year." At present, he said, only 5 to 10 per cent of new cars had rear belts fitted.

The hospital survey shows that not all injuries have fallen since legislation was introduced last year. Fractures and dislocations of the spine, though generally uncommon, have become somewhat more common since the law came into effect, and sprains of the neck, which were already common, have also increased.

The preliminary findings of the study have been presented to the annual conference of the Casualties Surgeons' Association.

NHS 'paying up to avoid court costs'

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The legal aid system is distorting claims for medical negligence against doctors and health authorities, producing a considerable drain on health service funds, an article in the *New Law Journal* says.

Even when plaintiffs lose their case, costs are so rarely awarded against them if they have legal aid that it is often cheaper for the health service to settle out of court than to have to meet the legal costs, according to the article by Professor Arthur Harland and Dr R. S. Jandoo of Glasgow University's department of forensic medicine.

In one case, a woman, fractured her collar bone and the break failed to heal properly. Specialists agreed the treatment had been proper and correct.

However, the woman was legally aided, the costs of the trial would have been £5,000, and the patient was prepared to settle for £500, so the patient was "offered an ex-gratia payment, which was accepted".

Even though payments are "ex-gratia", the patient still feels he has won, the doctors that they have lost, and "as a result the doctor-patient relationship is irreparably damaged", the article says.

Calling for reform of the law, the authors suggest there should either be a no-fault compensation scheme, as in New Zealand, legal costs should be more easily recoverable from those receiving legal aid; or the plaintiff's lawyer should be allowed to charge "contingency fees" - no payment and hence no legal costs, unless the case is won.

House raiders batter man to death

By Richard Ford

Raiders battered to death an elderly man yesterday as he attempted to free his three brothers and sister who had been tied to their beds at their home near Middleton in Co. Cork.

The two men ransacked the house and stole £180 leaving Mr Michael Walshe, aged 69, lying dead. Detectives in the Irish Republic launched a murder inquiry for the men described as "particularly vicious" who beat the man around the head with a large stick.

They broke into the house and bound Thomas Patrick Dennis and Elizabeth Walshe to their beds with their hands tied above their heads. Hours later their brother Michael was attacked after going upstairs to attempt to rescue them.

New Act could make some zoos shut

By Nicholas Timmins

Some zoos could close and their animals be destroyed after the introduction of the Zoo Licensing Act today, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said.

Privately and publicly owned zoos, bird gardens, safari parks and aquaria, will have six months to apply for a licence. The zoos will be inspected by local authorities and Department of the Environment inspectors. Once their recommendations are met, zoos will receive a licence for the first four years and later for six.

The standards cover the safety of visitors and staff after several accidents involving keepers; and housing and maintenance for the animals, running to 130 provisions.

Without a licence, zoos will not be able to operate. The Act is being supported by the National Federation of Zoological Gardens, to which 40 of Britain's estimated 150 zoos belong.

Mr Roger Wheeler, director of Edinburgh Zoo, and chairman of the federation's working party on the Act said: "The purpose is not to close down overnight zoos that are not conforming, but to give people an opportunity to put their house in order."

If zoos did not raise their standard when required to do

so, however, closure would be a possibility, he said.

Mr Stefan Ormrod, chief wildlife officer of the RSPCA, welcomed the act. "Ninety per cent of zoos need some improvement."

RSPCA inspectors had seen a hyena in a cage with four months of droppings, a bear with only a milk crate for entertainment and gregarious monkeys which had their tails chewed off because they had "gone psychotic" through being kept isolated.

Some zoos would have to spend a lot and half a dozen might close in the first year.

"If the Act is a success, a large number of animals are likely to be put down. Other zoos will not be able or want to take them. If you have a well-established group of baboons, you are not going to risk messing things up by taking a mental animal into the group."

"But it is better to get it right now with good standards than have the continued steady consumption of animals into the system for the next 50 to 100 years, which is what has happened in the past."

Mr Ormrod said that his main worry was that the Act did not appear to force local authorities to impose the recommendation of inspectors.

Aircraft crash-lands next to A30

The pilot of a light aircraft crash-landed close to the busy A30 yesterday.

The Cessna two-seat aircraft piloted by Mr Grant Randall, aged 26, got into difficulties during a test flight near Exeter airport, and was forced to land in a field. It stopped five feet from the road.

Mr Randall, and his wife, who was a passenger, escaped with bruises.

Mother and sons killed in fire

A man who was trapped on a window ledge outside his blazing home in Glasgow yesterday, shouted to firemen to save his wife and family first, but they were found dead when firemen reached them.

Mrs Janet Lee, aged 26, and her sons, aged four and three, were trapped in their top floor flat in Kilmuir Crescent, Arden. Mr Hugh Lee, aged 25, who was rescued by ladder, was treated for burns and the effects of smoke.

Tag scheme to protect salmon

By John Young
Agriculture Correspondent

The British Field Sports Society and the Salmon and Trout Association are launching a campaign today for new legislation to protect and conserve salmon stocks.

Members of both organizations are being urged to write to their MPs seeking support for a tagging scheme, such as is employed in Canada.

There is a fishing licence accompanied by tags, one of which must be attached to every fish caught. There are severe penalties, including imprisonment, for anyone caught with untagged fish.

The aim is that such a scheme in Britain should cover anglers and licensed commercial nets men.

A society official said yesterday that although the scheme would not prevent poaching altogether, it would be an important deterrent, since even the most unscrupulous merchant would think twice about buying untagged fish.

Poaching, mainly by illegal drift netting, has been held largely responsible for this year's poor spring runs.



Rebecca Thomas, aged five, from Warminster, Wiltshire, in the workout at the QPR stadium yesterday

Aerobics to boost Olympics fund

Seven hundred and seventy four people took part in an aerobic exercise led by the Guinness workout team at the Queens Park Rangers ground in London yesterday.

The participants were aiming for a place in the Guinness Book of Records as well as raising funds for the British Olympic Appeal, which stand at £1.2m. The

Guinness brewery company has agreed to match the cash raised through individual sponsorships and donations. Photograph: Chris Harris

Pickfords challenges bucket shops on cheap air fares

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Pickfords Travel is to challenge the cut-price air ticket "bucket shops" with its own two-pronged discount strategy. It is launching a chain of 20 Travel Mart shops selling cheap tickets, and will offer a similar service from special Pricer saver counters in up to a third of its high street agencies.

Pickfords is the first big chain to take on the bucket shops openly. Most travel agencies have concentrated on finding the best ticket deals for business travellers, but the Pickfords strategy should bring cheaper tickets within reach of holiday makers who may have been loath to use bucket shops.

About 10 per cent of all airline tickets are sold at discount prices, in spite of an internationally agreed fare structure.

But Mr Neil Thompson, managing director of Travel Mart, says more than a third of discounted tickets fall within the agreement.

Such discounts include advance passenger excursion fares (APEX), group rates, fares linked to minimal inclusive tours and discounts offered by charter airlines.

The Civil Aviation Authority appears disinclined to clamp down on discounts which fall outside the agreement, and other efforts to restrict discounting have failed because many cheap tickets come on to the market from the airlines themselves.

But Mr Thompson said the Travel Mart scheme would aim to avoid the "murkier" areas of the ticket business. "It is perfectly possible to run a business with fringe areas."

Pickfords have so far opened Travel Mart branches in Shepherds Bush and City Road, London, in Richmond, Surrey, Stockport, Greater Manchester, and Birmingham.

The pricer saver counters are being piloted in Bristol, Edinburgh and Newcastle upon Tyne, and others are due to open soon in Brighton, Canterbury, Oxford, Cambridge and Norwich.

A possible next step for Travel Mart would be to offer discounted package holidays which tour operators have been unable to sell. Such packages would probably be reformulated and sold in "own label" fashion as Travel Mart holidays.

Shop union calls for help to fight Sunday trading

The president of the shop-workers' union appealed yesterday for help from other trade unions to fight unrestricted Sunday trading.

Mr Syd Tierney told the annual conference of the Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers in Eastbourne: "We are in the middle of a political battle of the highest importance to our union as we fight unrestricted Sunday shopping and the prospect of the 'open all hours' Act for the retail trades."

"It is a matter of great importance that all trade unions support our fight against Sunday trading and the fight to retain premium payments for all Sunday work. The movement must respond to our lead."

He said that Sunday trading would increase costs which would be passed on to consumers. "Traders will blame premium payments for Sunday work as being responsible for those costs."

"Wages councils, which ensure premium payments for Sunday, are under threat by a government which is pro-business and anti-worker."



WHITLEY STRIEBER JAMES KUNETKA

Dear Reader,

Warday and the Journey Onward is about a journey around the United States five years after a 36-minute nuclear exchange.

We discover a startling world, full of unexpected twists of history. Britain, for example, has survived Warday, because Europe in the mid-eighties developed a regional treaty protecting itself as far as possible from an unexpected nuclear war.

Even in America, Warday barely scorched the treetops. It is just the sort of "limited" war that Pentagon planners envision in their happiest dreams. Our book reveals the hard, scientific truth of what really happens after such a war, what the planners are afraid to tell us.

On Warday seven million Americans die. There are not even enough bombs to touch off a nuclear winter. But, five years later, we find British relief officials fighting to help the Americans rebuild a disintegrated country, and seventy million more Americans dead of starvation and disease.

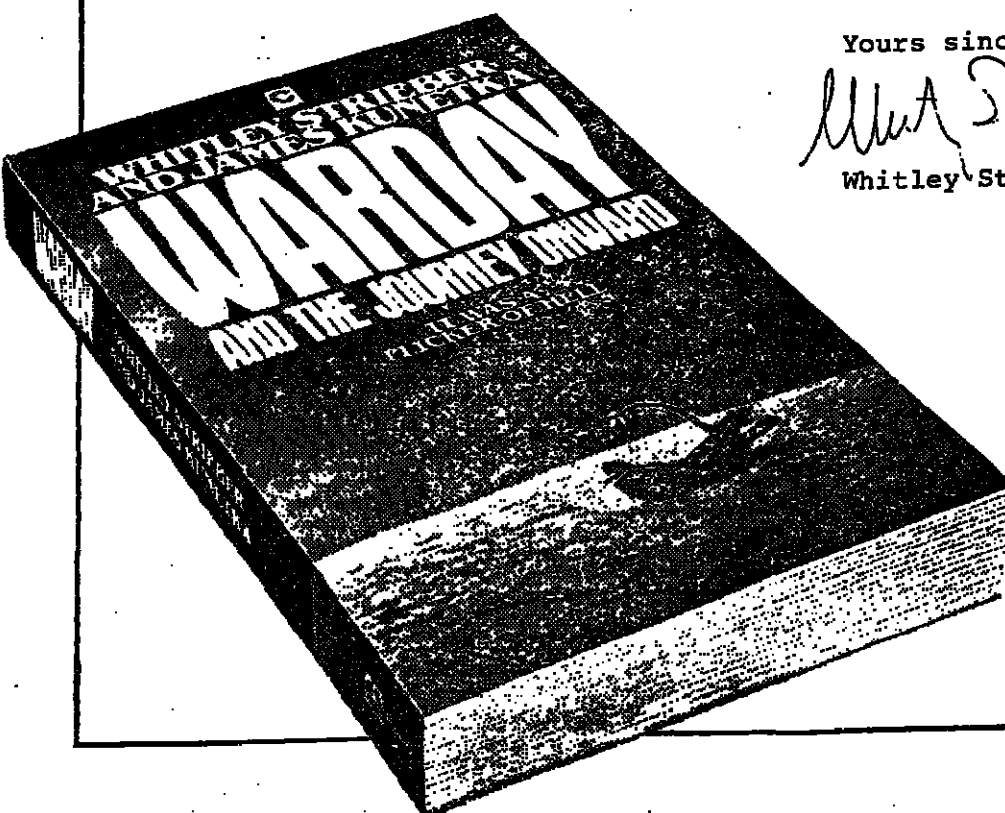
We Americans and Soviets are locked in a black embrace. You can choose: help yourselves and thus help us break the deadlock, or join us on some dreary future day, in the ashes and bones.

That's why this morning, April 30th we are personally delivering a copy of Warday to both the American and Soviet Embassies.

That's why we think it important you read it too.

Yours sincerely

Whitley Strieber James Kunetka



A Coronet paperback on sale now at all good bookshops £4.95



CORONET

Landmark inquiry starts on £30m plan

By Our Architecture Correspondent

One of Britain's biggest postwar planning battles opens at Guildhall, London, into plans to build a £30m, 21-storey glass and bronze office block at Mansion House, close to the Bank of England.

The design for the 290-ft tower and piazza above an underground shopping complex is by American architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, who died in 1969. It was commissioned by Mr Peter Palumbo, who has spent 26 years and £10m acquiring 12 freeholds and 345 leaseholds on the six-acre site for the scheme.

The development, including 378,000sq ft of offices, would be worth more than £100m on completion and letting.

Mr Palumbo first sought planning permission for it in 1968. The City of London's Court of Common Council and the Greater London Council approved the scheme in principle but withheld full

permission until he could guarantee a continuous phased operation.

But since then attitudes have changed and much of the Victorian architecture which would have to be demolished - including the Mappin and Webb building and eight other listed buildings - has been incorporated in the Bank conservation area.

A new planning application was rejected in 1982. Tomorrow's inquiry is the result of Mr Palumbo's appeal through his company, No 1 Poultry Ltd., and City Acre Property Investment Trust Ltd.

But battle lines have been drawn over the issue of new development versus conservation. Mr Michael Manser, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, will attack the City for acting "dishonourably" in changing its mind over the plan.

Apart from the City and the GLC, the other main opponents

include the Royal Fine Art Commission, Save Britain's Heritage - which has commissioned an alternative design by the post-modern architect of TV-am, Terry Farrell, - and the Victorian Society.

● Tonight Thames Television will be presenting its awards for modern architecture in London. Nearly 5,000 viewers of the nightly news programme *Thames News* voted for what they considered the best and worst examples of postwar buildings in the capital. Architecture at the barricades, page 9

Blaze leap

Mr David Halling, aged 40, received multiple injuries after jumping from his third-floor flat in Perry Hill, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, yesterday to escape a fire. Cheltenham General Hospital said that his condition was serious but stable.

Poll fight for second place at 'Sign-On Valley'

From Tim Jones Aberdare

The real battle in Thursday's Cynon Valley by-election is for second place. Only a disaster of shattering proportions will prevent Mrs Ann Clwyd, the Labour candidate, from becoming the first woman to represent a South Wales valley seat.

Mrs Clwyd, a member of the European Parliament and the party's national executive, believes she can increase the 13,074 general election majority, but when the result is so predictable that seems to be optimistic.

Apart from a lethargy engendered by the heavyweights, Mrs Clwyd is also fighting a male chauvinist factor, for Cynon is a traditional mining area, where in better economic times women stayed at home.

Unemployment is so high that the area is known locally as "Sign-On Valley".

Mrs Clwyd, who totally supports the miners has been ambiguous in backing Mr Kinnock and his call for a national ballot on pit closures.

Mrs Clwyd said: "I have no objection to ballots, but the issue is not about ballots, it is about jobs."

Plaid Cymru, which knows it must capture an industrial seat to become a serious political force, has also pledged total commitment to the miners. Its candidate, Mr Clayton Jones, a local coach proprietor, has taken more than 1,000 pickets to the Nottinghamshire coalfield, and has spoken at miners' rallies.

His uncompromising message that the miners must win was instrumental in securing second place for Plaid in the county council by-election in the constituency last week. Plaid polled 30 per cent, compared with 9 per cent at the general election.

Mr Jones is fighting for second place against Mr Felix Aibel, the SDF/Alliance candidate, who was second at the general election.

There seems little prospect of the Conservative candidate, Mr James Arbuthnot, having to fulfil his pledge of living in the constituency if elected. A former head boy at Eton, and a member of Kensington and Chelsea borough council, Mr Arbuthnot will probably become an MP - but not for the Cynon Valley.

He went to see Mr Emyr Williams, president of the South Wales miners, to ask why the union was not holding a ballot. Mr Williams must have admired his courage if not his politics.

The by-election was caused by the death of Mr Ivor Evans, who died of a heart attack on April 20, 1984.

£52,000 paid for South Downs wildlife site

Ninety-three acres of Malling Down, near Lewes in East Sussex, which contain turf said to be 4,000 years old, has been bought by the Sussex Trust for Nature Conservation for £52,000.

Half the site was part of the Ringier Park Estate and the rest belonged to the Glynde-bourne Estate. The areas is described as one of the most important wildlife sites on the South Downs.

It contains a wide range of chalk grassland flowers and many species of insect which depend on them. Three endangered species of blue butterflies are found within Malling Down.

Local council elections, 1

The numbers game is confusing

The lady at the Cardiff headquarters of Plaid Cymru, the Welsh nationalist party, was keen to help. But she had little to impart. "We have not done a breakdown, and I am afraid we have no list of our candidates", she explained. "Yes, we are defending seats. But I am afraid I would not be able to tell you how many."

The Social Democrats, although more ambitious, were not much more knowledgeable. They hope to capture seats all over the country and double the size of their present collection of 200 councillors.

An official of the SDP at Westminster said that the Press Association's independent estimate that her party was fielding 1,091 candidates was probably almost correct. But the exact total was probably rather higher, say about 1,200. The party's headquarters did not know what it was.

The Communists, at least, would surely know precisely what their members were doing in the regions. The organization department at the party's headquarters in London knew exactly how many seats the party would defend in Thursday's election. The figure was one, at Motherwell, Strathclyde.

But even the Communists did not know their precise number of candidates. The organization department was sure that the total was about 85. But it might be a bit higher, and it might be rather lower. If the parties do not know what is happening, who can blame the voters for being confused?

This year's local council elections will inevitably be a poor relation of the three parliamentary by-elections on the same day and of the national elections for the European Parliament the following month.

The local elections, however, cover a wide stretch of the country, literally from Land's End to John O'Groats, or rather

Local council elections are so confusing that even some parties do not know how many candidates they are fielding. In the first of three articles Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent, sets the scene for this Thursday's poll in more than 200 councils across Great Britain.

from Penwith District Council in Cornwall to Caithness District Council in the Highland region.

The days in which councillors could last for years without declaring political allegiance or fighting an election are receding. But local government still retains a trace of the aimable features that help to distinguish it from national politics.

A minority of the thousands of candidates standing on Thursday are not being opposed, so that more than 50 Conservatives and almost 100 Labour councillors will take power without the inconvenience of contesting their seats.

Another peculiarity of local politics is that some of its practitioners claim not to be politicians at all. In England and Wales more than 150, or about 6 per cent, of the candidates for election are held by councillors labelled independents. In fact, throughout the country independents hold far more seats on major councils than does the SDP.

There are some councils holding elections on Thursday where observers will look in vain for dramatic political upsets. Take, for example, the district council of South Herefordshire, which retains its name 10 years after the old county of Herefordshire was merged into the new combined county of Hereford and Worcester.

South Herefordshire covers an area more than half the size of Greater London, with much fine scenery and little pollution. The inhabitants of South Herefordshire are vastly outnumbered by the populations of

each of the 32 London boroughs. The political cut and thrust found in authorities all over the capital is missing from South Herefordshire.

There are, of course, politicians on the district council. The Liberal/SDP Alliance has two members and the Conservatives four. But seven councillors call themselves independents while the other 22 do not call themselves anything. If pressed, they will describe themselves as non-party, but prefer to be known simply by their occupations.

Even in some councils with heavy political representations, there is little scope for change. There are still councils where politicians from at least one of the main parties have no chance of getting beyond the public gallery.

In Torbay District Council, which covers much of the most fashionable section of the Devon coast, the opposition numbers one independent and one representative of a ratepayers' and amenities association. The other 34 councillors are Conservatives.

It can work the other way round. Opposition on Afan District Council in West Glamorgan is concentrated in seven councillors who represent ratepayers. The other 24 belong to the Labour Party.

Changes in political control are made even less likely by the fact that Thursday's elections in England and Wales are limited in scope. They are happening only in the middle tier of councils, and only for a third of the seats on councils for which elections are being held. Tomorrow's results will watch for.

Leading article, page 13

Contrast in styles for leadership election

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Voting starts today in the election to decide who will lead the Transport and General Workers' Union for at least the next decade. All the signs point to a close race between the two front runners.

The election in the country's largest union has attracted much more interest than usual. The successor to Frank Cousins, Jack Jones and Miss Evans is likely to be elected on a higher turnout than the normal 40 per cent.

The outcome is expected to turn on voting in two of the union's 11 regions: London and the South-east, with 390,000 members, the largest region, the Midlands, with 250,000.

Left-wingers backing Mr Ron Todd, aged 56, the union's national organizer, are pulling out the stops to deliver the vote in the South-east, which is regarded as his power base, while backers of Mr George Wright, the TGWU Welsh regional secretary, are mobilizing support in the Midlands car factories, where he started his union career.

While both men deny that the election is a contest between left and right, the right wing of the union is supporting Mr Wright while Mr Todd has the backing of the broad left grouping in the union. In addition to the political battle, a key factor will be the men's differing ideas on styles of leadership.

Mr Wright wants to take the union back to a Jack Jones tradition with the general

secretary adopting a high public profile and leading from the front, while Mr Todd believes in continuing Mr Jones Evans's style of leadership, which largely rests on acting as a servant of the national executive of 39 members.

Mr Wright, aged 48, recently claimed that he was more left wing than Mr Todd, who, he says, has the backing of the hard left. But on several issues in the past such as pay policy, Labour Party leadership and withdrawal from the EEC Mr Wright has adopted more centrist policies.

Mr Todd is best known as the chief union negotiator at Ford and has the support of most of the union's national leadership. His supporters claim that he will win the most votes in the five largest regions and argue that Mr Wright's support comes from areas where there are generally no large concentrations of members.

Mr Wright has secured nominations from about 500 branches compared with Mr Todd's 400, and the Welsh secretary's campaign organization says their advantage in the tradition that the union's general secretary has a motor industry background.

If Mr Wright does win it will be a break with the recent tradition that the union's general secretary has a motor industry background. If Mr Todd wins, he will be the first Londoner to lead the union for decades.

£10m shares campaign planned for Telecom

By Bill Johnstone Technology Correspondent

About £10m may be spent by the Government on an advertising campaign to encourage telephone subscribers to purchase shares in British Telecom.

Telecom management will play virtually no part in the promotion over the summer and autumn because they consider it the Government's duty to dispose of its shareholdings.

The Government advertising campaign, on radio, television and in newspapers, is distinct from those British Telecom will run. It is indicative of the corporations' desire to keep away from the minutiae of the flotation. Also it is the Government which wants extensive public ownership. Most Telecom management fear that will present logistical problems in keeping shareholders informed. There are more than 20 million telephone subscribers.

The Government aims to sell 51 per cent of British Telecom in the late autumn.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority will advise on the campaign that is permissible because of the constraints imposed on television advertising for promoting political views.

The privatization of British Telecom is contentious, even within the Cabinet. Advertising is expected to be restricted to information only.

The Government remains anxious to make a ministerial statement this week on the sale, but several issues remain unresolved with British Telecom.

The Government's proposal to limit future tariff increases to 3 per cent below the retail price index is not popular with the City managers and many analysts who fear it will endanger a successful sale.

The corporation favours a constraint that would allow it to bring domestic telephone rents into line with those charged to business.

The cost of any government advertising will be met from the sale proceeds. To encourage wide share ownership a voucher allowing a rental rebate is to be offered to shareholders. That will also be paid for from the sale.

Prospect for Brighton pier brightens

By John Young

'After years of neglect and fruitless debate, the future of Brighton's decaying West Pier is last night brighter. Mr John Lloyd, secretary of the Brighton West Pier Trust, said yesterday that the trust expected to acquire the pier next month. It will begin an immediate survey, which it hopes will be completed by September.

The survey is being financed by a £50,000 grant from the new Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, which has since been matched by a similar grant from Brighton council.

The pier has been owned by the Crown Estates Commissioners since its former owners, went into liquidation in 1977. It is expected to be sold to the trust for a nominal £100.

Reactor fire

An inquiry started yesterday after a fire in the main reactor building at the Berkeley nuclear power station in Gloucestershire, but a spokesman said there was no risk of a radiation leak.



Front-wheel power: Some 200 Citroën Sevens from all over Europe parade on Paris's Rue Royale yesterday on the way to Le Bourget airport, where 2,000 of the vehicles gathered for the fiftieth anniversary of the launching of the model, the first popular front-wheel drive car.

Aborigines may have died in atom tests

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

Mr John Bannan, the Labour Premier of South Australia, has called for a full investigation into allegations that four Aborigines died as a result of secret British nuclear tests at Maralinga in 1963.

His call comes after a former RAF technician, dying of cancer in Adelaide, said that he found the bodies of four Aborigines in a bomb crater after one of the tests in the outback of South Australia. The allegations were contained in a report in Saturday's *Adelaide Advertiser* newspaper.

Mr Bannan also said that he would be writing to Mr Neil Kinnock, the British Opposition leader, asking him to press for the release of records on testing at Maralinga. He decided to do so because the response he had received from Sir John Mason, the British High Commissioner in Canberra, had been inadequate.

Mr Bannan also revealed that the federal Government was involved in talks with Whitehall to try to get more information on the tests.

Yesterday, Aborigines at Yalata, in the far north-west of South Australia, announced that they planned to seek compensation from both the British and Australian governments for damages and the alleged ill-effects of radiation caused by the atomic tests at Maralinga.

The Aborigines in the Maralinga area were moved to Yalata before Britain began its test programme. However, they recently gained freehold title to the test site with the passing of the Maralinga Land Rights Bill.

The allegations which sparked this latest row over Britain's atomic tests in Australia were made by Mr John Burke, aged 63. He said in the interview with the *Adelaide Advertiser* that the 1963 tests - three of them altogether - were carried out in secret. He found, he said, a number of animals deformed after the tests.

Little was known about the three tests, which were carried out in May and June 1963, until now. Earlier British tests are better documented because they took place more than 30 years ago, and documents concerning them have been available under the 30-year rule.

The Australian Federal Department of Resources and Energy has confirmed that there were "minor" atomic tests at Maralinga in 1963. A spokesman for the department said that there were perhaps five "minor trials", but that they were nowhere near the scale of the earlier tests and any fall-out would have been limited.

Mr Burke's claims come close on the heels of another report concerning British atomic tests in Australia alleging that fall-out from tests in 1953 may have contaminated wide areas of eastern Australia.

Last week, it was revealed that tests taken at the town water supply treatment plant of Wagg, in southern New South Wales in 1953, after two atomic tests at Emu plains in South Australia, about 950 miles to the west, showed that a significant amount of radioactivity entered the water and remained for some time.

The Wagg tests, carried out by the head of a company supplying and building water treatment plants, conflict with the official report that any fall-out beyond the immediate test area was negligible.

Mr Burke claims that he has received several anonymous telephone calls telling him to keep quiet, but he decided to speak out because he was dying of stomach cancer. He claims his cancer is a direct result of his exposure to radiation in 1963.

Mr Burke said that after one of the 1963 explosions he spent three days in hospital with burns, his legs "glowing in the dark". He was about a mile and a half from the detonation site of two of the three tests and was wearing only shorts and a shirt.

Managua accuses church of collusion

From Alan Tomlinson Managua

The customarily strained relations between the Roman Catholic Church and the leftist Sandinista Government in Nicaragua have reached a new low following the publication by the country's bishops of a pastoral letter calling for dialogue and reconciliation with American-backed rebels.

Government leaders have reacted by accusing the Church hierarchy of a calculated attempt to destroy Nicaraguan unity at a time when the Central Intelligence Agency-sponsored Contras are engaged in one of their bloodiest offensives to date.

Commandante Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the governing junta, said publication of the letter was "calculated, thought out and oriented by the CIA."

"We don't doubt that some of these bishops have received directions from the American Embassy in Managua," he told a public meeting in the capital.

The letter, signed by the Archbishop of Managua, Mgr Miguel Obando y Bravo, and seven other bishops, called for reconciliation and dialogue "in which all Nicaraguans inside and outside the country must participate without discrimination."

It added: "Furthermore, we believe that Nicaraguans have taken up arms against the Government must also take part in this dialogue, without which there will be no possibility of a settlement and our people, particularly the poorest, will go on suffering and dying."

The effect was explosive, coming as it did in the midst of heavy fighting between Government troops and rebels in various parts of the country and international condemnation of the mining of Nicaraguan ports by rebels directly supervised by the CIA.

The official and pro-Government press reacted with predictable rancour, publishing archive photographs of the Archbishop embracing the late dictator Anastasio Somoza, interviews with the bereaved mothers of young soldiers who have died in recent fighting, daily editorials and cruel cartoons, one even depicting Mgr Obando y Bravo as the devil. Cinemas in Managua put on *Monsieur*, a film about a corrupt priest which always seems to come round when the Government is at loggerheads with the clergy.

Relations between state and church have long been strained as a result of what the bishops see as the Government's desire to alienate them from the Roman Catholic majority through the creation of an alternative, populist church led by revolutionary priests, some of whom hold powerful Government positions.

Through his frequent hostile homilies, Archbishop Obando y Bravo has assumed the status of a leading spokesman against the Government, which censors traditional opposition mouthpieces, ostensibly as a result of the security situation.

Senior Ortega accused the bishops of being "false prophets, dishonest and unchristian". He said their letter was neither ingenious nor innocent but "totally orchestrated with the actions of right-wing parties who plan to abstain from the elections and some capitalists who have taken positions against the revolution", what he called "the Quisling minority".

Another junta member, Señor Sergio Ramirez, described the letter as "another mine planted in Nicaragua... aimed at destroying unity and confusing the people".

NEW YORK: Fewer than one-third of Americans questioned in a new opinion poll support President Reagan's policies in Central America, and nearly half the people fear those policies might lead the nation into war, according to a poll released yesterday (Reuters reports).

Of 1,367 adults surveyed by The New York Times-CBS News poll and published in The New York Times Sunday edition, just 30 per cent said they approved of Mr Reagan's Central American policy.

Asked for an overall assessment of how the President is conducting foreign policy, Americans were split. Forty-three per cent said they approved and 43 per cent disapproved.

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Architects stage festival to mark 150 years

By Charles Knevit, Architecture Correspondent

An eight-month celebration of the art of architecture will be launched today by the Royal Institute of British Architects to mark its 150th anniversary this year.

Hundreds of events in the first national festival of architecture, will be staged throughout Britain in an attempt to involve as many members of the public as possible.

The institute's 80 branches and 22,000 members have planned an ambitious programme of exhibitions, lectures, concerts, competitions, films, opening of buildings normally closed to the public, and the flood lighting of important works of architecture. It ends with a float in the Lord Mayor's Show and a party at the institute's headquarters in Portland Place, Central London, which was built as a result of a hundredth anniversary design competition won by G Grey Worman.

The most spectacular event will be a £40,000 royal gala evening at Hampton Court Palace on May 30, when the Prince of Wales will award the Royal Gold Medal for Architecture for 1984 to an Indian architect, Mr Charles Correa. The award is being given for his contribution to Third World housing.

A masque called *Britannia Preserved*, commissioned from A N Wilson, the author, and Stephen Oliver, the composer and musical director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, will be performed for the first

time at the gala in front of 700 guests. Its theme is "The glorious achievements of British architecture".

The institute will be throwing open its doors to the public from May 19 to 26 in an effort to "demystify architecture". Guest speakers will include Mr Richard Ingrams, editor of *Private Eye*, Magnus Eysie and Mr Norman St John-Stevens, the Conservative MP.

A series of concerts will be performed in 10 houses designed by Robert Adam, including Kenwood House in Hampstead, and Kettleton Hall, Derbyshire.

A Special Report on Architecture will be published with *The Times* on May 18. Further details of the anniversary events may be obtained from the festival office at 66 Portland Place, London W1N 4AD. Telephone: 01-580 5533.

Mr St John-Stevens: Guest lecturer

Five wise men try to end split among Sikhs

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Five wise men, the high priests of the Akal Takht, the seat of immortal power of the Sikh religion, have been called in to attempt to settle the rift that has appeared between the feuding holy men of the Sikh agitation in Punjab.

Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, the President of the Sikh party, the Akali Dal, and the dictator of the *Morcha*, as the agitation is known, was bitterly criticized by a group of militants who stormed out of a four-hour meeting, called to discuss the future of the *Morcha*.

They marched to the premises occupied by the extremist leader Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, and pledged their loyalty to him. With the split in the Akali party now out in the open, Sant Longowal offered to sacrifice his position and resign "for the sake of the unity and glory of the Sikh Panth (religious community)".

But the next day, when tempers had cooled, the split was described by Sant Longowal as not a split at all. All that had happened was that a splinter group of Akalis, followers of another extremist, Mr Jagdev Singh Talwandi, had walked out. They had never really been supporters of the Akali line, and their disappearance left the party and its directorate intact.

Sant Bhindranwale, meanwhile, announced that he would

not be setting up any rival group and would continue to support the *Morcha*. But, he added, he would not be speaking to Sant Longowal again.

Giani Kirpal Singh, the chief priest of the Akal Takht, has held several rounds of talks to try to work out a solution.

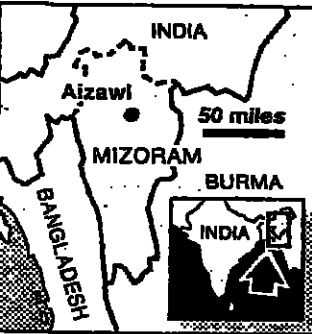
He is being pressed to issue a *Hukamnama*, a commandment, which since it emanates from the highest religious and political authority in Sikhdom, must be accepted by all Sikhs. The Giani is, however, reported to be reluctant to do so, but may issue a joint appeal from all five priests asking all Sikh leaders to sink their differences.

The chances are, however, that this would be of very little effect.

Manager accuses church of collusion

Gandhi's party sweeps to power comfortably in Christian Mizoram

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi



Indian newspapers commented yesterday that only "relatively minor incidents" marked last week's elections in Mizoram. One candidate was killed necessitating the postponement of voting in his constituency, and on polling day a police reservist was shot dead by people determined to boycott the polls.

By Indian electoral standards these could be counted as minor, but the most surprising aspect of the election was the result. Mrs Indira Gandhi's Congress Party was swept into power with an overall majority. Of the 29 seats contested the Mizoram Congress Committee (MCC) had yesterday won 17. Only two more seats from country areas have yet to be declared.

Mizoram is one of the seven north-eastern states which were carved out of Assam in the 1960s and 1970s. It hangs at Assam's southern tip, pointing towards the Bay of Bengal, bordered by Bangladesh and Burma. It is not a fully-fledged state, but a union territory, and technically ruled from Delhi, but it has been allowed its own legislature.

It is a district of hills, and valleys, populated by Mongloid tribes people. It was annexed by the British after the tribesmen started making a nuisance of themselves in the late 1880s, joined to Assam as the Lushai Hills district, and promptly

men under arms, mostly in Bangladesh. The MNF leader, Mr Lal Denga, resides in gentle exile in Surrey.

Retired Brigadier-General Thenphunga Sailo began a civil rights association attacking the Army for its atrocities, and the irony of an army man attacking the hand that used to feed him turned him into a popular hero, his association into a political party - the People's Conference - and eventually the retired brigadier into the Chief Minister.

But the wheel of politics has now turned against Brigadier Sailo. Allegations of corruption against his government have begun to stick, promises of aid, in cash and benefits from the central Government, have lured the electorate away.

Though it is obviously a good result for Mrs Gandhi, who herself took a whirlwind campaigning tour through the territory last week, one should beware of reading too much of a forecast of future electoral success into it. The total population of the territory is under half a million, not much larger than many single-member constituencies in some states, and the people are largely musical, Christian and volatile - "a guitar, a girl and a gun" was the young Mizo male's motto - and very different from the largely Hindu India to their west.



These boots are made for running: Senator Gary Hart with a pair of cowboy boots cum running shoes presented to him on a television show in Nashville, Tennessee.

El Salvador elections

Business fears Duarte victory

As El Salvador prepares for the final stage of its presidential election, John Carlos, in the first of two articles, looks at the fears of the business community.

Resentment runs deep in the Salvadorean private sector towards Señor Napoleon Duarte, the probable next President of El Salvador. Businessmen feel that he betrayed them when he was a member, and then President of a governing junta from 1980 to 1982.

The private sector say they had made a deal with Señor Duarte before he joined the junta in March 1980 as to how the economy would be run. "When he entered the Government he made a 180 degree turn", Señor Mario Valiente, Director-General of the American Chamber of Commerce in El Salvador, said. "From then on it was war, real war."

The Duarte junta instituted an agrarian reform programme under which all landholdings over 500 hectares were expropriated and transformed into cooperatives. It also nationalized the banks.

The measures were considered laughably insignificant by the left but to the right they represented a body blow which they still hold as an example of Señor Duarte's erratic "communist" tendencies.

A pre-electoral accord Señor Duarte made with the Salvadorean unions provides further grounds for private sector anxiety over the future if he wins next Sunday's run-off election.

"A lot of people are scared to death of a Duarte victory", says

Señor Juan Vicente Maldonado, president of the National Private Enterprise Association (ANEP), the symbol of private sector power in El Salvador.

The ANEP membership, which brings together all branches of Salvadorean business from the traditional coffee-growing sector - accounting for one-third of the country's economy - to light industry, is

virtually 100 per cent behind the implacable Major Roberto d'Aubuisson in the election. Major d'Aubuisson is first and foremost the defender of private enterprise. He could be relied on to check any "progressive" economic reform, to stunt whatever land reforms have already become law, and to try and create the conditions for a return to the not long gone days when 2 per cent of the population owned 90 per cent of El Salvador's wealth.

But Señor Duarte is the man the private sector is talking about these days, many of them having bowed before the apparent certainty of his triumph on Sunday. "Duarte has this facile Robin Hood notion that you can solve society's problems by taking away from the rich and giving to the poor," Señor Maldonado said.

The private sector feels that Señor Duarte is beyond persuasion. "He thinks he is the Messiah," says Señor Roberto Llach, a coffee magnate. Many businessmen fear that Señor Duarte, possessed of a sense of retributive justice, will destroy the country's traditional economic hierarchy.

The war with Señor Duarte which Señor Valiente talks of has been limited to words so far. There is no private enterprise in El Salvador," Señor Duarte has gone on record as saying "only rich assassins".

Señor Duarte appears to have little doubt as to where the inspiration lay for an atrocious wave of human rights violations which accompanied the junta's reforms in 1980 and 1981.

It is not only in economic matters that the private sector anticipates disaster under Señor Duarte. Many are convinced - though it is patently absurd - that Señor Duarte is a member of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN). More plausibly, others believe he will negotiate with the FMLN guerrillas once in power.

"That's the worst thing that could happen," says Señor Valiente. "It would be opening the doors to thieves. Look at Nicaragua."

Private sector money has begun to leave the country since Señor Duarte's first round electoral victory in March. The chances are there will be an avalanche of capital out of the country if Señor Duarte secures victory this Sunday.

Tomorrow, the union view.

Swiss males reject women's lib

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Tradition has defiantly reasserted itself at the annual open air parliament of the Swiss half canton of Appenzell Outer Rhodes, held in the square at the hill top town of Trogen yesterday.

Male voters sporting ceremonial swords - "only those who carry arms have the right to vote" - decided by a show of hands on mundane matters such as new by-laws and the budget. They were also asked to give their verdict on a Social Democratic Party proposal for a referendum in which sexes would decide whether women would take their place with men in the assembly itself.

But counting the votes was not necessary. Hands raised in favour of a referendum were like a spinney compared to the forest of those against.

This was the fifth time in the 14 years since Swiss women gained the right to vote in federal affairs that Appenzell Outer Rhodes has asserted opposition to changing an institution it regards as "the purest form of direct democracy".

"At the assembly", said one man, "there's this tremendous gut feeling of community." Some of the women, lining the square as spectators, admitted in being torn between contemporary ideas of equality and deep attachment to tradition.

Briton is found dead in Sudan

From Gill Lusk, Khartoum

The British employee of an American surveying firm has been killed by armed attackers in southern Sudan. Mr Evan Jones, aged 39, was driving from Bor, provincial capital of strife-torn Jonglei province, to a camp 56 miles to the north when his Land-Rover was held up at gunpoint around midday on Thursday.

After extensive searches by police, his body was discovered on Saturday in thick bush near the site of the hold-up, 12 miles north of Bor. Police were yesterday holding a Sudanese worker who was accompanying him.

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), which is very active in the region, is understood to have denied involvement. There are indications that former colleagues with a grudge may have been involved.

The killing took place only two days after Mr Jones's company, Geosource, had started a seismic survey for the French oil company, Total.

Another French company, Chevron, stopped all operations in southern Sudan in February after the killing, probably by rebels, of three foreign workers. This has already delayed Sudan's petroleum export hopes by 18 months.

However, Total returned to work last week against the advice of other overseas companies.

Peron invited home for talks with Alfonsín

Buenos Aires (Reuters) - The opposition Peronist Party has invited its leader, Señor Maira Estela Martínez de Perón, to return to Argentina from Spain for political talks with the government led by President Raúl Alfonsín.

The Government said Señor Alfonsín's talks with opposition parties would begin on May 7. It said he would first meet leaders of the Peronist Party, the main opposition.

The talks are aimed at reaching an agreement with all the nation's representative forces on a global strategy for national recovery, a government source said.

Señora Perón, who was President from 1974 to 1976, has been living in Spain since 1982. She returned in December only to attend Señor Alfonsín's inauguration, which brought an end to the military government that toppled her from power.

The Peronist Party, which had been the nation's dominant political force over the last 40 years, still has virtual control of the upper house of Congress and the powerful union movement.

Government sources said Peronist support is needed for the success of Señor Alfonsín's efforts to renegotiate Argentina's \$43.6bn (£30bn) foreign debt.

Citroen workers accept terms for repatriation

From Our Correspondent, Paris

The first group of immigrant workers from the main Citroen car plant outside Paris has agreed to return home in exchange for cash payments from the company and the Government of between £5,200 and £8,600 each.

Most of the 409 are Moroccans. The French car industry has since suffered recession and there is less need of strong arms on assembly lines that are moving over to robots. The car companies want thousands of the immigrants to return.

Citroen, which wants to lay off 1,700 of the 4,000 immigrants it employs near Paris, recently suggested a figure of £5,200, half from various government grants and the rest from the company. It had almost no takers and the final sum for the 409 men will probably be a few thousand pounds more.

Renault is being more generous - a total package of £8,600, plus a cheap car or a tractor in some cases.

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Israeli censor suspends paper for reports on death of bus hijackers

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The struggle between sections of the Israeli press and the country's strict military censorship rules intensified yesterday, when the Supreme Court rejected an appeal by the new tabloid daily *Hadashot* (news) against an order by the chief censor requiring its closure for four days.

The closing of the paper was one of the severest moves ordered against a Jewish as opposed to an Arab-owned publication here for more than 15 years and reflected the Government's anger over continuing disclosures concerning the mystery surrounding the deaths of two of the four Palestinians who hijacked a bus on April 13. There has been growing speculation that they may have been captured alive and later killed by Israeli security men or soldiers.

The chief censor's harsh measures were ordered last week after the Tel Aviv-based paper (which is owned by the publishers of *Ha'aretz*, Israel's most respected daily) defied censorship and disclosed that Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, had set up a committee of inquiry chaired by a retired general to determine the fate of the two hijackers, one of whom was photographed leaving the bus alive.

Last night, the paper's lawyers were still looking for legal ways of sidestepping the order to close the printing plant, but without optimism. Because of a last-minute decision by a Supreme Court judge to permit the unsuccessful appeal, the paper will effectively be off the streets for only three days, as it put out an edition yesterday before the hearing took place.

Unlike all other Israeli daily papers, *Hadashot*, - the country's newest and most brash newspaper - is not a member of the Editors' Committee, which operates a voluntary form of censorship in cooperation with the government.

The action against it was taken under the Israeli censorship law, which is based on draconian emergency regulations originally drafted by the British in 1945 during the mandate. Although the closure of the paper's press and the launching of a police inquiry are almost unprecedented in Israel, they are relatively moderate steps compared with what the law permits.

The appointment of the Defence Ministry investigation took place last Thursday and represented a dramatic change of heart by Mr Arens.

It had been made known to editors who sit on the com-

mittee. It is understood that the other papers were reluctantly persuaded by Mr Arens not to release any news about the inquiry because of the risk which could be posed to Israeli prisoners still in the hands of Palestinian splinter groups.

The most crucial piece of evidence likely to go before the committee of inquiry is, ironically, a photograph taken by a *Hadashot* photographer showing Mr Majdi Abu Jumes, aged 18, being led away, apparently alive and well, by two security men. It has never been published here because of the censor's orders, but the Government suspects the paper of having leaked its existence to the foreign media, which subsequently covered the growing scandal in great detail.

The order to close a Jewish-owned paper has only been taken a handful of times in the country's history and its use in this case has sent shock waves through the journalistic community.

"When the police arrived at our office on Friday, it was hard for us to believe," said one senior *Hadashot* executive, who did not want his name used. "We know this sort of thing happens in Latin American countries, but we did not expect it here."

Lebanese cabinet still not named

Beirut (Reuters) - Lebanese armed groups fired at each other across the front lines in Beirut intermittently as attempts to form a government of national unity marked time yesterday.

The shooting broke out in mid-morning between Muslim militias in the west and the Lebanese Army and Christian forces in the east.

Grenades, machine guns and automatic rifles were used but the fighting was not as heavy as on Saturday, when two people were killed and more than 20 wounded.

The Prime Minister-designate, Mr Rashid Karami, was at home in the northern city of Tripoli. He flew there after two days of apparently inconclusive parliamentary consultations on the shape of the government.

President Amin Gemayel had asked him to form.

Mr Karami declined to say when he would be able to announce the list of ministers.

● **Aide resigns:** A top aide to President Gemayel, Mr Wadih Haddad, has resigned (AFP reports). His departure and replacement by Mr Jean Obied, who is on good terms with the Syrians, was seen as a new sign of the demise of United States influence on Lebanese policy, following the pullout of the Marines.

Mr Haddad, aged 43, was Mr Gemayel's adviser on national security matters for nearly two years and the champion of United States policy in Lebanon. He was also a prominent right-wing Christian.

Mr Haddad was charged with all contacts with the Americans and he finally became the target of criticism from both opponents and supporters of Mr Gemayel.

● **TEL AVIV:** The Israeli Army said yesterday that soldiers had shot dead two guerrillas caught attempting to plant a roadside bomb near the south Lebanese village of Ansariya (Reuters reports).



Italian triumph: Michele Alboreto of Italy on the podium yesterday after winning the Belgian Grand Prix in Zolder in a Ferrari. Race report, page 22

Experts fail to find substitute for war

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Jurists and diplomats from 35 countries of East and West Europe, as well as from the United States and Canada, after meeting in Athens for the past five weeks, have had to admit that they failed to devise a generally acceptable method for the peaceful settlement of international disputes.

They are holding a closing session today to formalize the fiasco and release the text of their 28-line final report approved on Saturday.

The meeting was in response to a mandate from the Madrid meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and was a sequel to the abortive Montreux meeting of 1978. The results in Athens were just as negative, but the climate was said to have improved perceptibly, especially between the US and the Soviet Union.

Row halts Grenada inquiry

From Jeremy Taylor, Port of Spain

Grenada's second attempt to begin a preliminary inquiry into charges against 20 political and military personnel of the overthrown revolutionary government ground to a halt last week after a six-hour courtroom wrangle.

Several of those charged - they include the former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and the leader of the brief and ill-fated revolutionary military council, General Hudson Austin - said the "tremendous obstacles" had been placed in the way of their attempts to obtain adequate defence counsel by both the invading forces and the interim government.

Only six of the 20 have counsel. The British Queen's Counsel, Lord Gifford, who was retained to defend Mr Coard and his wife, was barred in February from appearing in court under regulations decreed by the revolutionary council.

Two Guyanese defence counsel, Edward and Lloyd Luckhoo, sent word that they were ill. The Jamaican lawyer who has been seeking counsel for most of the accused, Jacqueline Samuels-Brown, said she was representing only four.

Several of those charged also claimed in statements to the court that they had been tortured in prison and challenged the legality of the American intervention last October and the interim government that was established in its wake. Magistrate Lyle St Paul replied that that was a matter for the international courts.

The 20 are charged with murder and conspiracy to murder in connexion with the killing of the former Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, some of his key supporters and an as yet unconfirmed number of Grenadians.

Malaysia's new King warns his Premier

From M. G. G. Pillai, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's new King, Sultan Iskandar of Johore, has, within hours of being sworn in, told Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir the Mohamad, the Prime Minister, and his ministers that "You have to learn to live with me now".

The Government has reason to fear a confrontation with the independent-minded king whose likes and dislikes, unlike those of his predecessors, are not necessarily those of the administration.

He has refused to stay in the official palace, at least for the time being; decided to give away his \$15,000 federal monthly allowance to a foundation he is setting up and he has swept away 27 years of court protocol - anything that did not fit in with his view of what it ought to be.

What makes for the difficult relationship is that Sultan Iskandar knows that a reported statement of his panicked Dr Mahathir and Datuk Musa Hitam, his deputy, into wanting to reduce the ruler's powers, and brought about last year's constitutional crisis. But he has since made his peace with the Prime Minister.

But other problems loom: The King has insisted that the two government executive jets be used only with his permission. The Government is unwilling to concede, but it is not clear if it would want a confrontation on this just yet.

His opposition to Datuk Musa, whom he has publicly accused of *le majesté*, dates from the constitutional crisis. The King did not want him in the receiving line when he was installed last week and Datuk Musa was there only because the Cabinet insisted on it.

"Some people accuse me publicly and apologize in private", the King told a lunch meeting at the palace last week, in an obvious reference to Datuk Musa, who comes from Johore. "But I want a public apology, with the press reporting it prominently."

Part of the problem derives from the belief earlier this year that Sultan Iskandar would not be elected king - the front-runner, Sultan Idris Shah of Perak, died a fortnight before the election.

The ruling party, officially, has not welcomed his election, and the relationship remains strained, although it is improving.

Nuclear blast

Kiel (Reuters) - A weekend explosion blew the metal legs from a 130ft pylon carrying electricity to the Brokdorf nuclear plant site. The uncompleted plant near Kiel has been the target of protests from nuclear power opponents.

Statue of female Christ removed

New York - A bronze statue of a crucified woman by the sculptress Edwina Sandys, granddaughter of Sir Winston Churchill, has been removed from the Cathedral of St John the Divine in Manhattan. In the short time it was on exhibition, it was the subject of considerable controversy. (Trevor Fishlock writes).

"It is theologically and historically indefensible," the Right Rev. Walter Dennis, Episcopal Suffragan Bishop of New York, said. He was shocked by the 4ft bronze figure, entitled *Christa*, and thought it a desecration.

However, the Very Rev. James Parks Morton, Dean of the cathedral, sides with those who say it makes the point that God acted through Christ to save all people, regardless of race and sex, and that the female figure is an allusion to the mystical body of Christ transcending sex.

Art theft

New York (AFP) - Three armed men made off with a \$100,000 (£69,000) haul of modern art from New York's Christie's Contemporary Gallery at the weekend. Stolen works included numbered prints signed by David Hockney and Henry Moore and sculptures by Deborah Stern, Malcolm Woodward and Lynn Chadwick.

Mondale boost

New York (Reuters) - Black Democratic voters prefer Mr Walter Mondale to the Rev Jesse Jackson as the party's presidential nominee, according to a weekend Gallup poll for *Newsweek*.

Flights resume

Cairo (AFP) - Egypt and Libya have agreed to resume flights between the two countries after a five-year break. *Al Ahran* reported yesterday. Weekly flights will start soon between Cairo and Tripoli and Cairo and Benghazi.

Death sentences

Ankara (Reuters) - Seven people have been sentenced to death in a trial of 72 alleged left-wing militants accused of 10 political murders and other armed offences in southern Turkey before the 1980 military coup.

Hirohito is 83

Tokyo (Reuters) - Emperor Hirohito yesterday celebrated his eighty-third birthday. He told cheering well-wishers from the veranda of the Imperial Palace that he was pleased to see them and wished them happiness.



Watford family killed in Normandy car crash

Police survey the wreckage of a car in which a British family of four died near Le Havre in Normandy.

Seven people were killed in the crash on Easter night. The Britons were Carl Antony Hadley, aged 47, a printer's manager from Watford, his wife, Pamela, and their two children, Ruth, aged 16, and Rachel, aged 12.

The accident occurred on the road between Harfleur and the Tancarville bridge that spans the mouth of the Seine when a car collided with the Hadleys' Ford Cortina.

Both cars burst into flames killing all the occupants, including two policemen from Paris riding with the driver of the other car, a docker from Le Havre.

Soviet scoop on space beings

From Richard Owen, Moscow

As Russians began preparations in earnest over the weekend for tomorrow's May Day celebrations a Soviet astronomer revealed that world peace and the "bright future" promised by Soviet communism may be brought about not by earthly efforts but by beings from outer space, who are already trying to get in touch with us by intergalactic telephone.

The news that we are not alone was broken in the newspaper *Moscow News* by Dr Boris Fesenko, who believes that the gently pulsing and glowing nebula, known as NGC 6543, is not merely a ball of greenish gas with a white hot core but also a signal from extra-terrestrial beings. Since the nebula is all of 1,000 light years from here it will take time for the signals to reach us, but Dr Fesenko is firmly convinced that we will receive them.

NGC 6543, he wrote, had obviously been designed by intelligent beings who, looking down on our small planet, could foresee that towards the end of the twentieth century man would enter the technological age and be in a position to receive a message from superior civilizations.

Dr Fesenko is rather vague about what the "supreme intellect" is trying to tell us. The first signal we receive may not contain information at all and may be merely a sign that "we are not alone, someone knows about us".

But we can rest assured, he seems, that the beings who have watched over us for thousands of years, sharing our sorrows and rejoicing in our triumphs, have only benevolent intentions. They may even be able to "diminish the danger of a nuclear catastrophe on Earth".

It is possible, Dr Fesenko argues, that life originates "in different places at different moments in time," so that older civilizations are able to protect newer ones from self-destruction and show them the way ahead. "NGC 6543 cannot be seen by the naked eye", he wrote, "but I believe it forebodes the possibility of a brilliant future for our descendants."

Just in case anyone takes the Fesenko theories too seriously, however, *Moscow News* printed two sceptical views by fellow Soviet astronomers. Both agreed that the position of the nebula in relation to Earth was a remarkable coincidence, placing it almost exactly at the pole of the Earth's orbit.

But the sceptics concluded that although Dr Fesenko's theory was "elegant and attractive", it was difficult to believe - not to say presumptuous to suppose - that NGC 6543 was a "beacon from a higher civilization".

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Among its many aims is a lower rise in hospital charges for BUPA members. In 1984, for example, this should average below the rate of inflation - at around three to five per cent.

The hospitals have also indicated that they will hold these charges for agreed periods and will give BUPA prior notice of any future increase.

And we have set up a simpler system of direct payment from BUPA to hospitals that reduces administration and makes the claiming procedure easier for our members.

A greater stability of costs will be a truly significant step forward in private medical care and will provide BUPA with an even more solid foundation on which to build for the years to come.

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Moscow offers hope of détente

From Richard Owen
Moscow

President Chernenko said yesterday that confrontation in East-West relations could be turned into détente, but that the Soviet Union would "keep its gunpowder dry" in case the forces of Western imperialism proved stronger than communism.

Speaking to workers at the giant Hammer and Sickle foundry in Moscow, Mr Chernenko said Moscow was "ready for dialogue", but a reduction in nuclear arms meant a "really mutual reduction". If the United States and Nato go to it, there will be no lack of cooperation on our part.

In an article which coincided with Mr Chernenko's remarks *Pravda* yesterday said the Kremlin was "ready to hold serious negotiations with any American president, even the incumbent one". It was not true that Moscow was blocking progress until the November election in the hope that Mr Reagan seen in Moscow as the arch-enemy of communism.

Mr Chernenko, who since coming to power has insisted that Nato must withdraw its new missiles from Europe before arms talks resume, said that as long as the "nuclear missile danger" was hanging over Russia "our gunpowder must be kept dry".

"We must always be on our guard so that the correlation of forces does not change in favour of imperialism and we turn out to be weaker".

Last week Mr Chernenko



Order of merit: Portraits of Politburo members go up on a Moscow street alongside that of Lenin. President Chernenko takes pride of place ahead of Gaidar Aliev and Vitaly Vorotnikov

said the new party programme to be adopted in 1986 would assume the eventual victory of world communism by peaceful means, but gave no target date.

Neither did he give a date for the achievement of "full communism" in Russia.

Mr Chernenko is to appear

on Red Square tomorrow for the May Day celebrations.

In yesterday's speech at the Hammer and Sickle works he said his visit was part of Lenin's tradition of direct communication with the working people.

Mr Chernenko is to appear

Mr Harilaos Florakis, leader of the Pro-Moscow Communist Party of Greece (KKE).

He said Washington was using nuclear missiles and space weapons to try to gain superiority over Russia.

Mr Chernenko is to appear

the next five years and "beyond".

Tass said: "All these years they have been on the offensive against the social and economic rights of the working people." Mrs Thatcher's statement tried to portray a rosy picture of the British economy, but unemployment had more than doubled under her administration. "Nevertheless, the Prime Minister did not suggest any radical measure which could really help the British working people to get rid of the hard consequences of the Conservatives' socio-economic policy".

Mr Chernenko is to appear

Reagan visit used in Peking power game

From David Bonavia, Peking

President Reagan's visit to China has so far provided the occasion for some brilliant diplomacy on the Chinese side, but the benefits for the Americans seem to be mainly confined to Mr Reagan's election-year image.

Whereas Mr Reagan has performed with one eye on the elections, the Chinese leaders have used the visit to consolidate their domestic image and strengthen their hand in the internal power game.

The pomp and circumstance surrounding President and Mrs Reagan's visit has masked the start of a series of frontal assaults on entrenched leftist officials in the Chinese provinces, using special investigating teams sent out by the Communist Party's Central Committee.

Since this internal conflict is reflected all the way up to the Politburo, it is useful for Mr Deng Xiaoping, the elder statesman, and Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, to show they are strong enough to manipulate Mr Reagan's presence and demonstrate their sophistication in international affairs.

The key issue remains Taiwan, and yet it is the one least likely to be tackled firmly before the end of the century. Mr Deng told President Reagan on Saturday that the United States "should not interfere" in the process of reunifying China, and Mr Reagan could only concur.

But the Chinese argue that continued supply of arms to the Kuomintang regime on the island constitutes precisely such interference.

While Mrs Reagan has busied herself with pandas and kindergartens, the President has not succeeded in reaching out to the Chinese people as was his aim. There is American vexation that the "censoring" of some of his public statements is only the tip of an iceberg of Chinese refusal to be talked down or talked out.

Mr Reagan was perhaps the first Western leader to come here and talk publicly about his country's commitment to God and religion, and that was what

the Chinese people were not permitted to hear, however little damage it could have done to China's security. They were also deprived of his nuggets on the primacy of free enterprise in economic development.

As regards international relations, these are fairly neatly divided into issues on which China and the United States see broadly eye-to-eye, and those over which China is critical of the Americans (as the Americans' own good, as well as the good of the world, the Chinese argue).

Problems like the Middle East and Central America are spheres in which China considers the United States is playing into the hands of the Soviet Union, by backing unjust or losing causes. In this, as an American official observed, they are in agreement with many of American's friends in Nato.

As to the big problems in China's backyard - Vietnam, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Korea - there is a felicitous harmony of view, except concerning Korea. But the will to seek a solution to the Korean problem is there on both sides.

The Chinese can offer tangible help by sponsoring a conference on Chinese soil aimed at defusing the conflict. But the Americans are not yet ready to take part, as the North Koreans insist they must, unless China is also involved.

China has drawn considerable, tangible benefits from its relationship with the US in the formalization of American agreement to sell nuclear technology for peaceful uses, as well as some forms of military equipment and high technology for civilian use.

Arms issue: The sale of US defensive weapons to China has been discussed during Mr Reagan's Peking visit. Mr Larry Speakes, the White House press secretary said in Peking. The Chinese are interested in advanced anti-tank and anti-aircraft systems and radar. Such sales would be the first of American weapons to communist China.

Pope's eyes are fixed on China's 1,000m souls

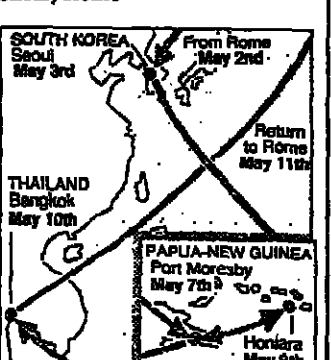
From Peter Nichols, Rome

The Pope sets off on Wednesday for the Far East on the twenty-first of his journeys outside Italy. He will visit four countries in 11 days yet much of his attention will be directed to China, that great white oriental whale which is still out of his reach.

By coincidence his Alaskan stopover on the outward journey will offer him the chance of meeting President Reagan, who will be returning home from China. The Pope will then go on to spend four days in South Korea, the highmark of the whole tour. He will pay tribute to the remarkably fast growth of Korean Roman Catholicism by presiding over the canonisation of 103 martyrs of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

After Korea, the Pope will spend two days in Papua-New Guinea, a day in the Solomon Islands and 34 hours in Thailand.

Linguistically, the pope will distinguish himself both in Seoul, where he will say mass in Korean, and in Papua New Guinea where he is expected to celebrate in Pidgin English.



Before leaving Thailand he will address bishops from Malaysia, Burma and Singapore as well as from Thailand itself. Here no doubt he will feel most strongly the absence of a Chinese presence.

Those 1000m souls remain a great fascination for the Vatican. And this despite the fact that diplomats from the Far East have tried to convince the Pope that the attraction is in no way mutual, that China is not interested in better relations with Rome or of a stronger Church in China owing some form of allegiance to Rome.

Lyubimov deserted by singers

From John Earle
Rome

Mr Yuri Lyubimov, the exiled former director of Moscow's Taganka Theatre, has been deserted by the baritone, the soprano and the orchestra conductor for his unconventional version of Verdi's opera, *Rigoletto*. Which is to open the Maggio Musicale festival in Florence on Saturday.

The baritone, Signor Piero Cappuccelli, said in an interview with an Italian newspaper: "Lyubimov was expelled from the Soviet Union, but he remains a Communist. Just think on the scene all the time there are some fixed mannikins: Hitler, Mussolini, Mao, Napoleon."

"I was meant to sing the part of Rigoletto wearing an overcoat taken from Napoleon, then put on my head a bowler hat and walk about like Charlie Chaplin."

The soprano, the Czechoslovak singer, Miss Edita Gruberova, has not been present at the rehearsals. The conductor, Bruno Bartoletti, has resigned out of solidarity with others.

"This mise en scene of *Rigoletto* appears frankly absurd," he commented. "It's making a joke of Verdi."

Signor Cappuccelli must have sung *Rigoletto* 300 times, and it was just not possible to make him dress like Charlie Chaplin without consulting him. As for the soprano, she was meant to sing an aria "dangling on a swing, with a voice coming and going. I've never seen anything like it."

Mr Lyubimov, a thorn in the flesh of official Soviet culture when at the Taganka, is unrepentant.

Speaking through an interpreter, he said he could not understand what had happened to Signor Cappuccelli. He had arrived at the theatre for rehearsals "exactly one week and a quarter of an hour late," then had gone away again.

Miss Gruberova had never arrived in Florence for rehearsals, so she could hardly judge his work.

Signor Luciano Berio, the artistic head of the festival, who hurried back from a promotional visit to New York when the trouble broke out said politics were not involved.

When he engaged the artists they all knew about Mr Lyubimov. Miss Gruberova had not appeared at rehearsals because she was unwell.

He had managed to find replacements, if it proved necessary: Herr Hans Graf, from Vienna, as conductor; Signor Antonio Salvadori, as baritone; and Miss Jenny Drivals, a Greek, as soprano.

European notebook Leap year race for unenviable job

Ladbroke's should open a betting shop in Brussels to cope with all the excitement generated by the great commission steeplechase. This major international event is held every leap year and is run simultaneously in all the capital cities of the European community. The course is a complex mixture of political, academic, technical and technical hitches, with contestants whipped on by national pride and prejudice.

The prize is the presidency of the European Commission, arguably the most powerfully impotent job in world politics. Over the years the holder of this unenviable office has been systematically stripped of nearly all but the power to influence, yet he is lumbered with the personal responsibility and the blame for almost everything that goes wrong with the EEC.

Between now and the June European summit the name of the next president will have to be agreed, by some osmotic process, between the 10 EEC leaders. There has already been a certain amount of lobbying, but the real selection job will start once the Easter break is over.

The task is more complex than ever this year. The current financial crisis facing the Community should be solved by the time the new president takes over, but he will still face a daunting task because of the bad blood that has been spilt. It is no time for a weak, stop-gap candidate chosen to satisfy national claims.

There is only one obvious candidate in the present commission: he is Viscount Egon de Kerpel, the Belgian diplomat, linguist and workaholic, who has an impressive record for knocking obstinate heads together and forcing compromise. If chosen his depth of experience and forceful personality should make up for his lack of political background.

But he is not short of detractors either. "Stevie Wonder" - as he enjoys being nicknamed - is criticized for being too autocratic and for failing to listen to any ideas but his own. He also suffers from the fact that as a French speaking Belgian, his Flemish dominated government is known to believe it is high time to appoint a Dutch speaking commissioner.

His domestic power base is thus not as sound as it should be. This has been a major problem of the current president, Mr Gaston Thorn, in his much criticized term in office.

Under the present system, Spain, as the fifth largest country, should be allocated two commissioners, and Portugal one this would bring the commission up to total of 17 members. Many feel that the current 14 are too many and certainly there are some commissioners who at the moment are what can only be described as "underemployed".

It remains for every country to have its own voice heard and understood inside the Community. This became obvious last October when a plan which totally changed the basis of calculating the British financial contribution was agreed.

The majority on the commission thought they could steamroller Britain into accepting the plan despite vehement opposition of the two British members. But the idea was ridiculed from the start, and the fact that it had been suggested at all further undermined the commission's role as honest broker and forced it on to the sidelines of the argument.

Finally, he and Mr Mitchell were both involved in a charming retrospective of the works of Howard Skempton. I dare say most of us could play Skempton and probably most of us could compose it too, since the stylistic value is that of the very easiest pieces for beginners. But there is no point in dismissing him, any more than in complaining what is a beautifully simple experience, one that remained unsullied here even by his own performance on that tawdriest of instruments, the piano accordion.

Viscount Davignon: EEC's Stevie Wonder

Despite his staid political experience - which led Britain to prefer him over the Viscount four years ago - the fact that Mr Thorn comes from tiny Luxembourg and from a political system which exists by compromise has meant that he has often been too weak for the Community's good.

This has in turn led to undermining the credibility of the whole 14-man commission and has provoked considerable argument over the future of the Community's executive. This is now intensified by the fact that Spain and Portugal are due to join the Community in 1986 - one year after the next commission is due to take over.

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Ian Murray

Sofia linked with Pretoria deals

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

Danish police are to reassess charges against the owners and shareholders of a Copenhagen-based shipping line for illegally smuggling arms from Bulgaria and other countries to South Africa, after a Danish television programme last week.

The programme clearly pointed to Bulgarian involvement in the illicit shipping by the Danish North Line of Ved-back, Trigon of Copenhagen, contradicting previous Bulgarian denials. According to Mr Sten Baadsgaard, one of the journalists responsible for the

programme, there is concrete evidence that Trigon carried out 25 to 30 illegal sailings of, in all, more than 6,000 tons of helicopters, missiles, ammunition and weapons from ports in Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Romania, Portugal, Belgium, France and Italy in the period 1978-80. It is estimated that Trigon earned a total of \$5m on the sailings, which were carried out in direct violation of the 1977 United Nations resolution banning arms exports to South Africa. Mr Baadsgaard said he had incontestable evidence to

show that the arms shipped from Bulgaria were of Soviet manufacture.

The Danish owner of Trigon, whose name cannot be divulged due to a court order, escaped to Cape Town last April. The Danish authorities first arrested him on charges of suspected illicit arms smuggling to South Africa in 1980 but released him when he claimed that he had only chartered vessels involved in a third party and was ignorant of their cargo.

This claim was later found to be false.

THE ARTS

PUBLISHING

Books that lead behind bars

There are about 10 million Kurds living in Turkey today. Their existence has been officially denied by each Turkish Government since 1923. Therefore Kurdish publications and books about the Kurds, their language and culture are illegal.

Even in Israel the military censor prohibits the distribution in the West Bank of many books published at home and abroad including poetry, history, physics and theology. Banned authors include the former Israeli deputy prime minister Yigal Alon, Arthur Miller and Shakespeare. Book-sellers have a problem. They may be jailed for selling banned books, yet they cannot discover, with certainty, what is or is not banned.

In Hungary, two new *szamizdat* ventures have come into being, one a periodical, the other a publishing house. Both make available work which is unacceptable to the state-run official publishers, including out-of-print Hungarian classics as well as new work and translations, among them Koestler and Solzhenitsyn.

This information, and scores of other examples, come from *Freedom to Publish 1984*, a report researched and edited by the British magazine *Index on Censorship* on obstacles to freedom in publishing, prepared for the recently held congress of the International Publishers' Association in Mexico City.

I am conscious of referring to W. H. Smith & Son more than to any other individual bookseller, but WHS is more - or less, subject to how you regard

it - than any other individual bookseller. If retail book-selling has a commercial future, WHS needs to be closely monitored.

In the weeks leading up to last Christmas, *Encyclopaedia Britannica* sold sets (each costing between £1,200 and £3,000, depending on binding) from nine Smith's branches. WHS has now, for a hefty price, granted a concession to sell the *Britannica* in no fewer than 54 of its branches. Michael Pountney, WHS's merchandise controller of books, says in his usual candid way: "We don't think it will improve our business substantially but it might add to the company's image as a serious bookseller."

I could suggest to Mr Pountney other ways of doing just that, but how many publishers (*Virago*? *Cape*? *Batsford*? *Deutsch*?) would welcome the opportunity of paying WHS to sell their books?

The judges of the first Betty Trask award for the best romantic and/or traditional novel are, because of the avalanche of submissions, being referred to at the Society of Authors, which administers the prize, as the Trask Force.

When Desmond Clarke, former director of the Book Marketing Council, is put in charge of an imprint's marketing department expect things to happen, even at Faber & Faber. In October

Craig Raine, Faber's own poetry editor and now one of their poets too, and Scamus Heaney are to participate in a poetry promotion that will take them,

in the course of one day, to both Oxford and Leeds. The distance between the two cities? 160 miles. But, to the publishers of Auden, Eliot and Hughes, poetry should be big business and the two poets, accompanied no doubt by the usual bevy of publicity people, will travel by helicopter. Cost? £300.

A well-known author, who does not ask to be anonymous but for his own sake probably should be, writes to say that he has published more than 20 books with various publishers and not once had difficulty in collecting earned royalties. Yes he comments: "How do publishers justify their hanging on to royalties two, three or even four months after the accounting period? I know why they do it - they are able to siphon off the interest that should be accruing in their authors' bank accounts. But justification..."

He goes on to say that, in his innocence, he used to assume it took two or three months after the accounting period in question for the publishers to get all the figures in and make their calculations. He now believes otherwise, as requests to his publishers shortly after the accounting period resulted in his being told precisely what sums he would receive in two months' time. "Quite evidently the money - my money - lay snug in the publishers' bank."

How naive some authors are. How do they imagine publishers make record profit figures?

E. J. Craddock

Theatre Kingdom of Earth Hampstead

Michael Attenborough's new Hampstead regime opens with the British premiere of a 1968 Tennessee Williams piece, stunningly set and cast up to the nines in the best traditions of this exacting house.

I cannot make the same claim for the text. Its director, Kenneth MacMillan, describes *Kingdom of Earth* as "a very dramatic play" and nobody is going to argue with that, given the fact that it concerns a duel to the death between two brothers for possession of a Mississippi farm-house, which is already half flooded and about to be engulfed.

With the local population fleeing the disaster area, the tubercular Lot returns home with Myrtle, his bride of 24 hours, and leads her into his mother's gilded parlour to take shelter, while in the squalid adjoining kitchen his coloured half-brother, Chicken, cowers drops darkly on their every word while tanking himself up on liquor and masquerading as a guard dog when anyone approaches his door.

We are back with Williams's chosen company of "the lonely and the lost"; but there is some difficulty in sorting out which is which. Lot may be a delicate creature, striving to "create a little elegance in a corner of the earth... that wasn't favourable to it"; but he quickly loses sympathy as a malignant plotter who has duped the trusting

Myrtle, and only married her to achieve posthumous revenge by disinheriting Chicken.

Myrtle, a former showgirl, may have a loving and open nature but she quickly picks her ears up at the prospect of property ownership. As for Chicken, he may come on strong as the beast in the jungle, but wait, perhaps he too is a victim of the raw deal dealt life (it is only a matter of time before he spills out his sad story).

Whatever your willingness to go along with the play, it is repelled by the growing sense that Williams is manipulating these people with scant respect for who they are. First there are obligatory hostilities between the brothers. Then Myrtle is given the task of slicing Chicken's document of inheritance.

Amid a gathering crescendo of mighty waters you wait to see whether she will be drowned or raped, or make her escape to the roof. By means of bringing her down three times from Lot's bedroom, each time in sexier costume, Williams achieves all three objectives. But the effect is to cast Chicken successively as a homicidal maniac threatening to dump her in the flooded

cellar; a macho bully bending the tinsel-clad "petite personality kid" to his will; and as a hard but honest man offering her his protection.

As always with Williams, overheated absurdity is periodically relieved by wonderful shafts of comic writing; but it says something for the play's shortcomings that the biggest laughs coincided with the main speech on man's earthly rewards.

Laurie Dennett brilliantly accommodates three contrasted living areas on the Hampstead stage, and the manners appropriate to each are faithfully reflected in MacMillan's production. Otherwise the company push character contrast to the limit. David Taylor's Lot gradually unfolds as an exquisitely poisoned flower. Stephen Rea, a brutal, mud-encrusted Chicken, exuding menace with deadpan insolence and malevolent chuckles, comes close to achieving the required final gear-change into the heroic vein. Nicola McAuliffe has an incoherently passive role, but she excels in varied modes of romantic love and terror; hers is by far the funniest performance.

Irving Wardle

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Paul Griffiths

THE ARTS

The future of Mies van der Rohe's last building is at stake in a massive battle due to begin tomorrow about the redevelopment of London's Mansion House Square: Bryan Appleyard reports

Architecture at the barricades

Tomorrow begins perhaps the most significant set-piece architectural battle since the war. A Department of the Environment inspector, Mr Steven Marks, will sit down in London's Guildhall to hear some 40 witnesses defend the proposed redevelopment of Mansion House Square and some 15 - including those called by the City of London Corporation and the Greater London Council - condemn it. The arguments Mr Marks will hear will take in every conceivable variation of the modernist, post-modernist and conservationist views of architecture, and a glittering array of the profession's stars have agreed to appear. The atmosphere of embittered conviction from both sides suggests some medieval ecclesiastical dispute.

At stake is the future of the last building designed by Mies van der Rohe, one of the three most influential architects of the century. Those for it simply think it would be a masterpiece, those against either believe it outdated and inappropriate or they prefer the jumble of Victorian buildings which it would replace. The sheer formal perfection of these battle lines will make this inquiry almost unique. It will be as much an argument about the nature of art as about politics or planning.

The seed of this extraordinary confrontation was sown on a Sunday morning in 1952 at Eton, when a housemaster gave a seminar on the architecture of Mies. Peter Palumbo, the 17-year-old heir to a private property company, was entranced. He became infatuated with modern architecture and, 10 years later, he commissioned Mies to design the Mansion House Square scheme. Ten years after that he bought Mies's Farnsworth House in Plano, Illinois. In the meantime, Mies had become godfather to Palumbo's daughter.

When commissioning the Mansion House development Palumbo had to warn Mies that there was little chance of the building starting before 1987 because of conditions surrounding the leasehold on the site. It was almost certain that the elderly Mies would have to work towards a posthumous project. Palumbo also told Mies that he wanted him to design everything, down to the ashtrays and door handles.

Some weeks later a parcel arrived in the post, full of brass handles and travertine marble ashtrays, with a note from Mies: "Is this what you had in mind?" The project was completed just in time. Two weeks before his death in August 1969

Mies placed the flagpole asymmetrically in the square in front of the office block, and the designs were finished.

The building, if it is approved, is likely to constitute a modernist masterpiece. The steel and glass tower improves on the calm purity of Mies's Seagram Building in New York, and its placing before an open square which roofs over an underground shopping mall looks stunning in the model. The square would also open up views of Lutyens's Midland Bank building, Dance's Mansion House and Wren's St Stephen Walbrook. Even Palumbo, however, admits it has the disadvantage of opening up as well a view of Bucklebury House on its south side. If it were built, Britain would move in one leap from having no Mies buildings at all to having one of his best.

It is not that simple, of course. The history of the scheme has been perverse and complex. Palumbo first sought planning permission in 1968 and received it in principle from the City in 1969. That same year the GLC praised the building as being "of great merit". But in 1971 the Bank Conservation Area was designated, and in 1981 it was extended to cover many of the buildings on the site.

Between 1969 and 1974 Palumbo and the City had negotiated unsuccessfully on the details. In 1975 Palumbo applied for planning permission to refurbish existing buildings, to start to generate at least some income from his properties, but their condition was too bad for work to begin. In 1981 Palumbo had bought every freehold except one - the Bank of New Zealand - for a total outlay of about £25m and he reapplied for planning permission. In 1982 he was turned down and the GLC turned against him. Tomorrow the final conflict begins.

Palumbo's problem is that times have changed. Modernism in architecture has become unfashionable, superseded by a spectacular variety of styles all determined to escape from the stigma of windy tower blocks and dripping concrete. But, most significantly, the conservation movement has burgeoned and the organization SAVE Britain's Heritage has turned into one of the most ferocious opponents of the scheme. SAVE has even commissioned Terry Farrell - the architect of TV-am's Camden Town studios - to produce plans to refurbish the existing buildings.

The anti-Palumbo lobby claims that he will destroy the tightly-woven fabric of the City. The specific buildings to be demolished may not be brilliant but they

are supremely characteristic of that type of Victorian urban development, and they keep faith with the medieval street plan. In any case the whole Mies development is essentially un-English, redolent of Chicago rather than Cheapside.

Even if Palumbo jumps that hurdle, he is confronted by another: what is the sense of putting up an outdated building more than 20 years after it was designed? Is it like erecting a new pyramid?

Palumbo's counter at this point in the argument will be to wheel in British architecture's Big Three - Richard Rogers, Norman Foster and James Stirling. They will acknowledge that they could indeed produce alternative solutions but - and here they will insert a very sharp knife indeed into the non-conservationist opponents - they could not manage anything better.

Both sides at this stage think they can win, but the truth appears to be that the issue is wide open. In the last analysis it depends on the attitude of Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State for the Environment, who is expected to deliver the final word in March 1985.

If Palumbo wins he will immediately start to spend another £75m to bring up to £100m his total investment in that frisson he felt on a Sunday morning in 1952. As a businessman he knew from day one that the whole project was not financially sensible. The cost-effective route would have been refurbishment. But in Palumbo - who is after all to take over as the chairman of the Tate Gallery Trustees in June - the conservationists are not up against any old rapacious developer; they are fighting a sophisticated connoisseur of modern art. He feels he must try to keep faith with Mies as his last patron and successor of Herbie Greenwald, the American patron who commissioned much of Mies's greatest work.

The best and most eloquent argument came from the great architectural historian Sir John Summerson in a letter to *The Times* published in March 1982. He wrote that he felt "some sympathy with some" of the objections, but overall they amounted to a "pathetic aggregate of disconnected and even contradictory half-truths". Finally, he wrote, there was simply more to be said for it than has so far been said against it. Sir John, now aged 80, is likely to appear before Mr Marks in the second week of the inquiry. God and Patrick Jenkin willing, he ought to win the day for Mies.



Peter Palumbo with model of the Mansion House Square development

Television
Tensions within

BBC2's Saturday night play, *The Testament of John*, was long but immensely rewarding. It required some patience at the outset, a certain tuning of the ear, for Don Taylor, who also directed it, wrote it in modern dramatic verse; and, ideally, an awareness of the international climate at the time of the Spanish Civil War when good appeared to stand out so clearly against evil.

But Mr Taylor is worth some indulgence, for he is able to stir the mind quite dramatically. Here he had a cast able to take hold of his language and convey the tensions within.

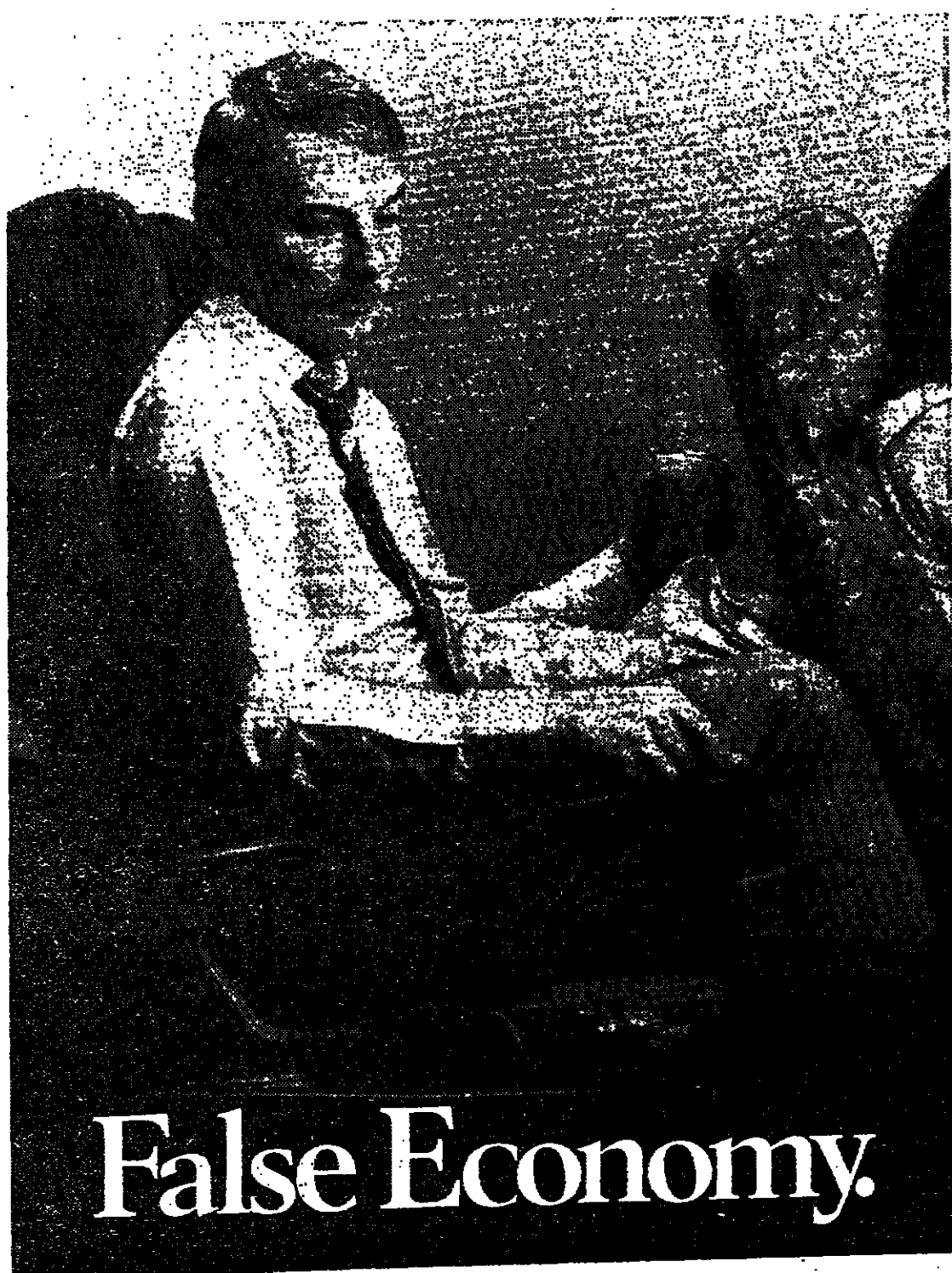
Kenneth Haigh was Robert Douglas, born after his father, John, had left his mother and gone to fight for what seemed to be the greater good. John appeared to have deserted both. Now, a retired and respected bookseller, he is living with the daughter born of a second, bigamous wife while he was a fugitive in France.

Robert, an academic historian, has tracked him down, and, in doing so, discovered evidence that suggests that - in addition to betraying his paternal responsibilities - he has also been guilty of political treachery resulting in the death of three of his comrades. Robert confronts him and his mystified half-sister with an eye to a double vengeance.

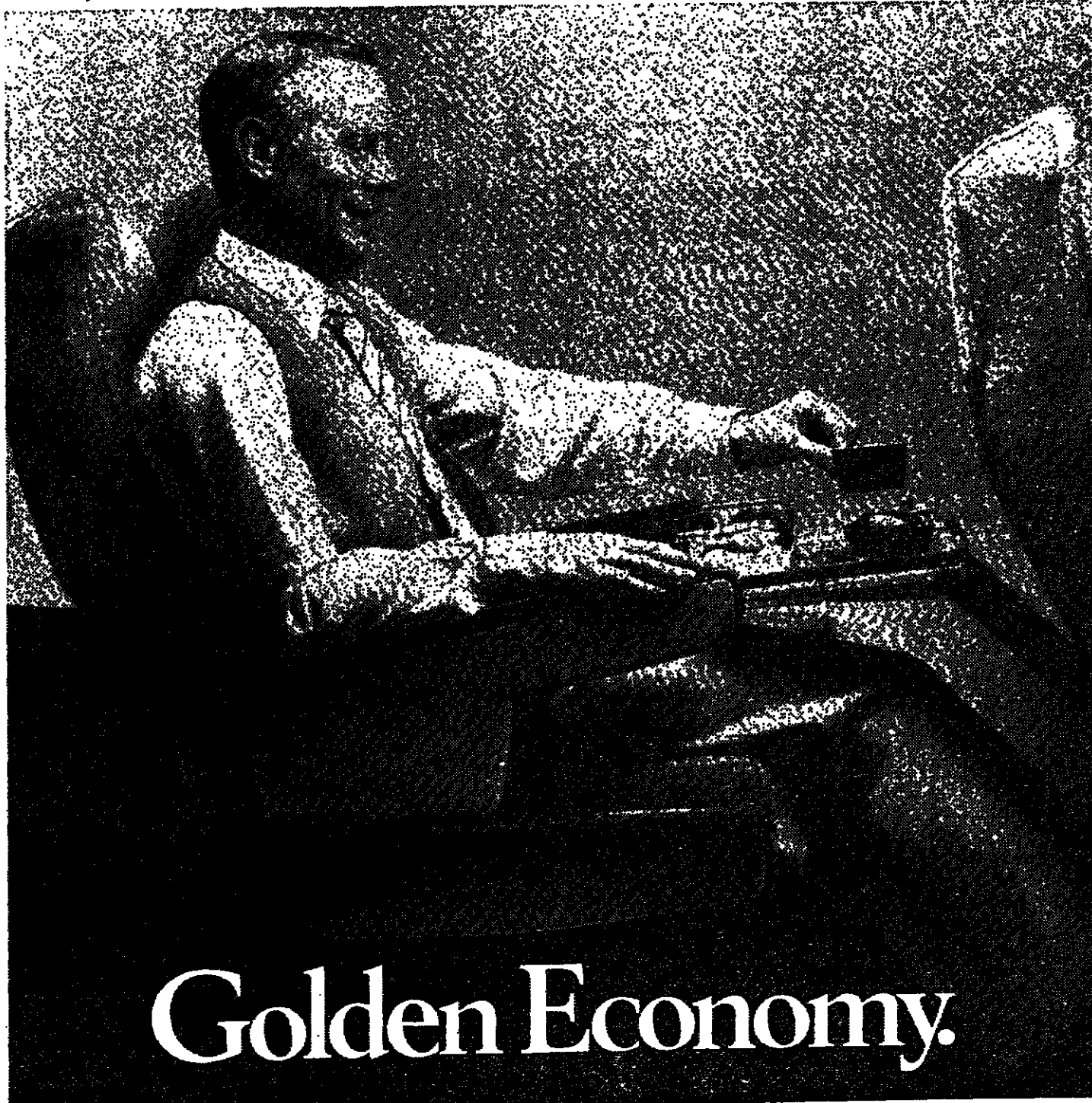
It was necessarily somewhat discursive, having not only to encompass the political shadings of almost fifty years ago but also the complex relationship of father and aggrieved son. It was a difficult task and Mr Taylor brought it off with considerable skill and, in the main, unremitting dramatic effect.

Anthony Quayle was magnificent as the father, Mr Haigh acidly implacable as the judicial son; Rosalie Crutchley not too harrowed as the deserted wife; and Jean Lapointe convincingly filial as the daughter. Louis Marks produced this unexpected Saturday night bonus.

Dennis Hackett



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SPECTRUM

Twenty years after it first spread in America, LSD, the most potent of the psychedelic drugs, is coming back. Seizures in Europe are rising again. Stewart Tendler and David May reveal the inside story of the men who put the drug into high quality mass production

The acid reign of King Owsley

By day, Canter's Delicatessen was a meeting place for the elders of the orthodox Jewish community living in the streets around Fairfax Avenue, Los Angeles. Canter's, close to the junction of West Hollywood and Beverly Hills, held a monopoly as the only eating place around the area which kept to the strict, complex food regulations of the Jewish faith. Reassured by the management's strictness, elderly men would sip lemon tea and tiffins, gossiping about children, grandchildren, Israel and the neighbourhood.

By night, when the old men had gone, their seats were taken over by hundreds of young people drawn from all over Los Angeles. There were other late opening delicatessens in Los Angeles, but the special attraction of Canter's was the booths where conversation could not be overheard. It was there the dealers sat and waited for business, passing a capsule of LSD or an ounce of marijuana under the table in exchange for a handful of dollars. Between two and four in the morning, a steady procession of cars stopped outside as customers arrived for the booths. Rich and poor congregated at Canter's, at "Capsule Corner".

Early one morning in 1966, as the crowd at Canter's began to build up towards its peak, four players sat round a table in an apartment a few blocks away to pass the time with a game of Monopoly. It was nearly 3am when they were interrupted by a group of people who had drifted over from the delicatessen. They knew most of the new arrivals, but they were not sure

about the man with cameras. Someone stepped forward. "This is Lawrence Schiller", he said, "the guy I told you about who works for Life magazine. They wanted him to do a piece on LSD and Larry here is collecting material. He's all right."

Schiller was trying to piece together the network of LSD distribution from maker to street user; he had been invited to witness the purchase of doses from distributors by middlemen; the four players were the middlemen and the apartment was the venue for the connection. To Schiller the apartment looked ordinary, another duplex like hundreds of others in the surrounding streets. He glanced round again and his gaze fell on the table. He started.

Owsley acid became a byword among dealers

The Monopoly players, all teenagers, were nonchalantly tossing round real banknotes.

Schiller made a quick mental tally: ten, twenty... twenty-five... thirty... thirty-five. There lay \$35,000 split between four kids who told him they were an insurance company trainee, a student, a rock and roll musician and a full-time drug dealer.

The delivery was casual, too. Another kid, a girl, bounced into the apartment clutching a peanut butter jar filled with purple pills. She whirled around the room and said with glee, "Look what I got from Owsley". One of the boys frowned, glancing warily at Schiller. As the jar was emptied on the table to reveal



Augustus Owsley Stanley III (left), "the man who did for LSD what Henry Ford did for the motor car" and (top), Tim Scully. Above, The tools of the Owsley trade

thousands of LSD doses, Schiller and everyone else crowded round. The boy slipped away to telephone a number on the other side of Los Angeles.

The phone rang in a large, rambling, rented house in the west of the city. The man who answered the call was Augustus Owsley Stanley III, once described by US Government agents as the man who did for LSD what Henry Ford did for the motor car. Dubbed by Timothy Leary "God's secret agent", he was the first underground chemist to mass-produce LSD to a high quality. "Owsley Acid" had become a byword among dealers and users alike. Beposited, in his early thirties and with slightly sharp features, Owsley provided the expanding LSD market with doses by the hundred thousand. Grandson of a US senator and Kentucky governor, son of a government lawyer, he was on his way to becoming "king" of LSD.

When the call from Capsule Corner came through, Owsley and his two associates - Melissa Cargill and Tim Scully - were in a celebratory mood. As far as they knew, no one ever successfully tableted LSD before - until then, Owsley had made a white LSD powder which was dosed in capsules. The tableting had been performed by hand, the finished pills poured into the peanut jar, then delivered. The run complete, he and his two assistants took a tablet each and sat back to enjoy the fruits of their labours.

Owsley's first LSD laboratory had been near Pasadena. Creating a dummy company called Bear Research Group - "Bear" was his nickname - Owsley ordered chemicals; within two months he took delivery of 500 grams of lysergic acid from a Los Angeles company at a cost of \$20,000. He paid in cash and followed up with another 300 grams bought from a second company. It was the last purchase of its kind to be made in the United States before tougher controls were established.

He met the Grateful Dead rock group and began experimenting with electronic equipment to improve their sound. He heard of a young scientist called Tim Scully, who was living near the university at Berkeley and was reputed to be an electronic genius. Owsley decided to find Scully and see if he would help design equipment.

Ironically, Scully was in fact looking for Owsley, but with LSD rather than electronics in mind.

The two met on Scully's front-door step in Hopkins Street, close to the campus, when Owsley knocked and introduced himself. They talked for several hours: Scully, the tall, lean, serious young man with a dry sense of humour, and Owsley, nearly ten years older, already a veteran of the LSD scene and very nearly the unofficial mayor of San Francisco, capital of the psychedelic world. Sure, said Owsley, he was going to make more LSD, but not just yet. Owsley was wary, wondering if Scully was an informer. Finally he suggested that Scully work with the Grateful Dead, and they would take it from there. Scully agreed and joined the band behind the scenes. But there came a point when Owsley's funds ran low. The answer was the purple pills.

The most difficult job was moving 'dry ice'

The money from the Capsule Corner tablets did not last very long, since Owsley was paying most of the Dead's expenses as well as contributing to many projects in the Bay area. He was beginning to feel that his role as major supplier conferred on him certain duties, and he was building up a

complex view of LSD and its potential. He saw himself as an alchemist, someone with a mission to make LSD available as a tool to alter history; whatever profits accrued were held in trust. A few months after the tableting Owsley decided to make more LSD and started the search for a new laboratory site.

A police raid on an illegal methamphetamine factory some years before had taught Owsley the virtues of caution and security, almost to the point of paranoia. He was always careful to be late for appointments, to vary his movements and check whether he was under surveillance. So, when he came to consider laboratory sites, he sat down and thought out his requirements with great care. Point Richmond, the next laboratory near San Francisco, was the 'prototypical underground laboratory hidden in a suburb of Berkeley professors' homes. The laboratory was an ordinary timber house.

They brought in chemical supplies from companies around San Francisco that knew Owsley as a steady customer. The most difficult and unpleasant job was moving in 'dry ice' as part of a condensing process.

Owsley was still working on the basis of a formula for LSD - the formula released by Eli Lilly in the 1950s - which left out key details on purification and prevention of decay for commercial rather than security reasons. Point Richmond became proving ground for filling in some of those blanks. Owsley had got as far as crystal LSD which in itself required a reasonable level of purity, but he believed that if he could achieve absolute purity, then the LSD would be extra special with extra special results. Between them, Owsley and Scully created 20 to 30 grams of what they thought was the purest LSD anyone had yet produced. The crystal lost its yellowish tinge and became almost blue-white under a fluorescent lamp. It was pure enough to be pizolomescant - if the crystals were shaken or crushed, they gave off flashes of light. (LSD is one of a very small group of compounds with this property.)

Turning from purification, Owsley examined marketing considerations and decided to vary the dye on the crystal, instead of using only one shade. He took five ordinary food colourings, as approved by the Food and Drugs Administration for the food industry, and divided the LSD into 3,600 doses per gram. Each gram was split into five, mixed with dye and put into capsules. Although there was no difference between the capsules, the street dealers reported back that the users were giving the colours different qualities: red was considered laid back; green frantic; and blue the ideal compromise. Point Richmond began churning out "Blue Cheer", as the capsules were dubbed by users.

Owsley's experimentation was over, however. In a small town north of San Francisco he rented a house from a man reported to be, ironically, a former guard at Alcatraz and moved in a tableting machine, to make the first compression-moulded (machine-made) tablets to appear on the LSD scene. They were white, and became famous as "White Lightning". Between midsummer and October 1966 when the new California law banning LSD came into effect, the chemist and his apprentice produced between 200 and 300 grams of LSD, or approximately one million doses, worth \$1 million on the street.

Tomorrow: The fall of the LSD empire

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It's here at last. The car of the 1980s. And it's British!

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Motoring correspondents were flown from all over the world yesterday to the Pork Scratchings service area on the M1 to see Sir Richard Attenborough launch the car they're already describing as the chariot of fire.

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We've thought of everything in the new Moreover Montague.

When you set off in the Montague, there's a free glass of champagne for every passenger. Meals are served at three-hourly intervals, whether you want them or not. And there's a free selection of magazines and daily papers in the sick bag in front of you.

Travelling in the new

Moreover Montaigne is rather like falling in love again. It's like looking across a crowded restaurant and meeting the eyes of the person you want more than anyone in the world. The waiter.

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It's got an engine, too. But we won't bore you with technicalities. Because there's only one question you want to ask, isn't there?

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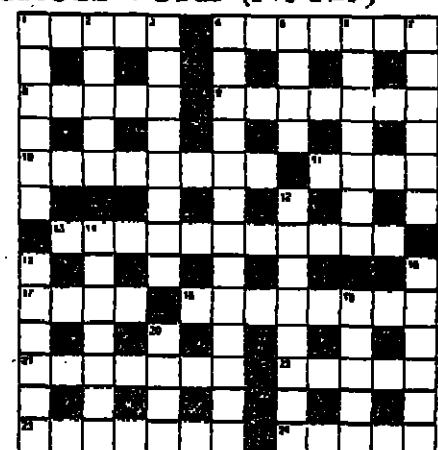
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That's the sort of car it is. The Moreover Mistake. Order yours now. Cash only. Ta.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 329)

- ACROSS
- 1 Sea dip (5)
 - 2 Underwater (3,4)
 - 3 Overwhelm (5)
 - 4 Of wife (7)
 - 5 Shelled recess (8)
 - 6 Solid (4)
 - 7 Pioneer (11)
 - 8 Job price (4)
 - 9 Trapezoidal lyre (8)
 - 10 Soup dumplings (7)
 - 11 From Eire (5)
 - 12 Feed holder (7)
 - 13 Senior group member (5)

- DOWN
- 1 Split in two (6)
 - 2 Hike (5)
 - 3 Great elation (8)
 - 4 Army drill (6,7)
 - 5 Forehead (4)
 - 6 Attentive state (3,4)
 - 7 Self-confidence (6)



- 12 Convict (8)
- 13 Constructing snake (6)
- 14 Fixed portions (7)
- 15 Improve mind (5)
- 16 Strict woman (6)
- 17 Strikebreaker (4)

Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

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MONDAY PAGE

They all lived happily ever after. Or not, according to taste. Books programmed into computer cassettes with which the reader can vary the course of the story to suit a whim are the latest thing. Alan Franks investigates the new interactive literature

The moving finger rewrites the plot

A computer-backed revolution is stealing up on the book world, and publishers are bracing themselves for its impact with a mixture of hope and bewilderment. "Interactive literature", or fiction in which the reader can play an active part by feeding instructions through his keyboard, has already started to sell in Britain, and there is hardly a major publishing house which is not exploring the potential of the field.

"IL", as it is now popularly called, consists of whole books encapsulated in computer cassettes, allowing a variety of plots to be pursued by the user, depending on his ingenuity at the keyboard. In practical terms, this means that instead of being escorted through the story by its author in the conventional way, you can at any stage select a different set of options and take the narrative into another direction.

In its simplest detective form it enables you, as the sleuth, to solve a murder mystery by extracting vital pieces of information from the program. But now the technique is being extended by software specialists to existing works of fiction, enabling the home computer user to rework a book to his own conclusion.

There is already a mass market potential "on line"

The most telling harbinger of the trend is Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, which has already sold 100,000 copies in computerized form. Far from being a banal reduction of the original, it can fairly claim to use characters locations without intruding the spirit of either. Certainly it is a sophisticated affair, and even experienced "readers" are taking as long as 30 hours to complete it.

Interactive literature is not to be confused with straightforward computer games of the *Dungeons and Dragons* variety, although, given that much of its appeal rests in the element of quest and adventure, it owes a great deal to the conventions which that medium has established. Agatha Christie and C. S. Lewis are among the names of best-selling authors whose literary estates are now being approached by software publishers with a view to IL conversion.

Although there are as yet only about a dozen British-manufactured packages of interactive fiction on the market, the past decade has seen the emergence of several thousand game programs and it is this which is proving a source of encouragement to those on the literature side. To judge from the prognoses of the IL buffs at the recent London Book Fair, at the Barbican, that figure of a dozen is set to explode one hundredfold in the next five years.

Their optimism is further justified by the fact that there are now two million Spectrum home computers in our households, and some 250,000 Commodore models. Taken together with other highly successful hardware, such as the BBC Micro B, it means that there is already a mass market potential "on line." Just as significant is the fact that such established authors as Robert A. Heinlein (*Starship Trooper*), Harry Harrison (*The Deathworld Trilogy*) and Frank Herbert (*Dune*) are currently having their work turned

into IL. This year, one of the UK market leaders, Mosaic Publishing, has software by eight authors on its June-December list. They include Desmond Morris (*Neurok*) and Terry Jones (*The Saga of Eric the Viking*). Most of these cassettes can be used with the Spectrum 48 K, and some with the BBC Micro B, Electron or Commodore 64. Prices for a book/cassette package range between £6.95 and £14.95.

Meanwhile, Penguin Books have stepped smartly into the action with their *Korih Trilogy* by P. K. McBride, each of the three packages costing £4.95 and usable with Spectrum 16K and 48K, Melbourne House's *The Hobbit* retails at £14.95 (Spectrum 48 K and Commodore 64). This price is higher because of the complex pictorial element in the program.

At this early stage it seems likely that one hurdle facing the industry will be to persuade conventional publishers and literary estates that to re-order some fine novel for the home computer market need not necessarily amount to the desecration of a monument. In some instances, the "shock of the new" may prove so much for the copyright owner that he could not countenance the idea of computer franks tampering with the text. The onus therefore will be on software publishers to show that the act of passing the initiative from the author to the reader can actually enhance rather than minimise the original.

Having seen Douglas Adams's first screen jottings on his own modern classic *A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, I can say that no matter how his "readers" choose to bend the story line, the prose is as fresh and as witty on the disc as it was on the page and the radio.

America is the cradle of the IL revolution

The cradle of the IL revolution is America. It was spawned in the late 1970s by a union between the Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduates interested in the netherworld of fictional goblins. A young fraternity set their minds to the creation of adventure games and formed the now burgeoning company, Infocom. Ten of these games, notably the *Zork Trilogy*, *Starcross* and *Deadline* as widely played by home computer users in Britain. So widely, that with the right equipment the players, like a latterday breed of radio hams, can key into "bulletin boards" and compare notes on their progress. "Can anyone out there tell me how to get out of this bloody coffin?" reads a typical entry.

Infocom and their "Interlog Series" might be pioneers, but when we impose the revolution - as inevitably we will - let us hope we don't ape the style of their sales jargon, which makes Newspeak sound like fluency itself. The invoking together of literature and technology is uncharted terrain and the British publishers involved agree that there are almost as many pitfalls as possibilities. If this new medium is to avoid the stigma of being just a glorified game, then the writer must be allowed to play a larger role than the technocrat.



COLIN KAPP

author of
*The Unorthodox Engineers:
The Pen and the Dark*

I have written hardly any novels or short stories which did not have a computer in them somewhere. It rather amuses me to see the wheel turning full circle and stories going into the computer. To me, that is both welcome and challenging, when one thinks of the influence which computers will have on virtually every aspect of life in the near future. I accept that the spoken word and printed page have served story-tellers well, but I get the feeling that

computers will serve them even better. You see, what we are seeing here - established tales turned into video devices - is just the tip of a very large iceberg. My reason for saying this is that micro-computers are developing in power and capability at an extraordinary rate and the limitations which beset today's games will soon be cut out. Now the reader gets the chance to be an active participant in the story, which his own influence on the course of events. Who knows how it's going to go? Soon we might be able to sail with HMS Ulysses, or help to destroy the guns of Navarone.

The Unorthodox Engineers:

The Pen and the Dark,

by Colin Kapp

Spectrum 48K, BBC Micro B,

Commodore 64.

Book/cassette pack: £9.95

The Width of the World

by Ian Watson

Spectrum 48K

Book/cassette pack: £9.95

The Stainless Steel Rat,

by Harry Harrison

Spectrum 48K

Book/cassette pack: £15.00

Neurok, by Desmond Morris

BBC Micro B

Electron

Book/cassette pack: £14.95

The Saga of Eric the Viking

by Terry Jones

Spectrum 48K

BBC Micro B

Commodore 64

Book/cassette pack: £14.95

In the Beginning,

by Humphrey Walwyn

Commodore 64

Cassette, £6.95

Escape From Arkon,

by P. K. McBride

Spectrum 16K and 48K

Book/cassette pack: £4.95

Besieged, by P. K. McBride

Spectrum 16K and 48K

Book/cassette pack: £4.95

Into the Empire, by P. K.

McBride

Spectrum 16K and 48K

Book/cassette pack: £4.95

The Warlock of Firetop

Mountain

Spectrum 48K and

Commodore 64

Book/cassette pack: £6.95

The Hobbit

Spectrum 48K and

Commodore 64

Book/cassette £14.95

DOUGLAS ADAMS

author of
*A Hitchhiker's Guide
to the Galaxy*

You can't compare I L with literature. If you do, you can very easily make a fool of yourself. When Leo Fender first invented an electric guitar, one could have said: "But to what extent is this real music?" To which to answer is: "All right, well we're not going to play Beethoven on it, but at least let's look at what we can do." What matters is whether it's interesting and exciting. The thing I like about this, is that I can sit down and know that I am the first person to be working in this specific field, when you're writing a novel, you are aware that you are manipulating your readers. Here, you know you're going to make them think how it is that you want them to reason. I don't regard it as being an abdication of creative art. Yes, at first I was horrified; in fact, there is a sense in which now the author is even more in control because the "reader" has more problems to solve. All the devices of the novel are still at your disposal, because a novel is simply a string of words, and words can mean whatever you want them to. It just offers the opportunity to have a lot of fun.



RICHARD GOLLNER

head of Radala Associates,
computer book
and software agents

The way it's been up to now is that you read a novel and I read a novel, and then afterwards we compare notes. That's all changing. Now we are both heroes and we can compare notes on just how we got on at being heroes. Take *Alice in Wonderland*. Sure, it's fun to read, but isn't it more fun getting to be Alice? Wouldn't you like to be Alice? I'd love to be Alice. Or else Agatha Christie. What about her? She may have been a very good writer, but honestly some of her plots are very creaky, and maybe she could use a helping hand. You know, interactive fiction is already having such an influence that there is a publisher planning to bring out a series of 90 *Choose Your Own Adventure* books. Nothing to do with computers, just children's books in which the kids can choose between a whole variety of story lines by reading the pages in a different order. Here you have a case of the old technology (the book) beginning to acquire the characteristics of the new. In a way, this revolution's a bit like the early days of steam or electricity. They'd say: "Look. This machine works. See there. It makes the wheel go round over there." And then they'd say: "Hey, now what're we going to do with the wheel?" In this case, the answer is: "Plenty."



RICHARD OLNEY

Director of Forethought
Software and
Interactive Storybooks Ltd.

The association of computers and books is going to take a colossal number of forms, and as home computers stop being just toybox novelties, there's going to be a mushrooming of very specific subject-based packages. The data base principles are now very highly

developed, and yet I'm convinced it is not enough to provide users with expensive new toys with which to work out their own applications; in general these are difficult to understand, and if you don't have the required skills, the results will be unsatisfactory. As I see it, the irony of the software market is that when people see a great thick manual, they imagine they're getting value for money, whereas the best kind of software is self-

explanatory and needs no instruction book at all. To ignore the story side of things for a moment, I can foresee a colossal demand for computerised non-fiction in areas like, let us say, bird-watching or family health. We are talking about powerful tools which should be used to perform the more mundane aspects of human endeavour. You might say that I'm arguing for the democratization of technology.

PENNY PERRICK

There is no pattern for success



What is there, in the backgrounds of successful women, that leads, inevitably, to their becoming rich and famous? Not a lot, although Cary L. Cooper and Linda Thompson, in their book, *Public Faces, Private Lives*, flounder around quite desperately in their search for a common denominator.

The high achievers they interviewed, just like the low achievers they didn't, had experienced varying degrees of parental love. Joanna Lumley was "spoiled rotten". Jill Tweedie was made to feel that her mere existence "was a total mistake for everybody". Some, like Esther Rantzen, had fathers who were "gender blind", encouraging and devoted. Some lost their fathers through death (Tracey Ullman) or divorce (Susan Hampshire).

Those whose early lives were secure and stable thought that this had contributed to their later success. Those whose childhood histories read like cases ripe for an NSPCC investigation were convinced that their early struggles had had a positive influence. As the successful women grew up, their life stories

continued to run in divers directions. Some left school early, others went on to university. Success came young to Petula Clark and Cilla Black; Glenda Jackson didn't hear her first applause until she had turned 30. Some married and lived happily ever after (Lynn Redgrave, Petula Clark), while some got divorced (Susannah York, Joanna Lumley).

Cooper and Thompson deduce that, to be happily married to a successful woman, a man should have a good self-image. One might equally say that a husband who is comfortable with his own personality is likely to be a delightful spouse for any woman. During the past 10 years, I too have interviewed several famous women and have tried and failed to fit them into a formula.

It did sometimes strike me that a high proportion had very cleverly married men who took over the professional worrying. While Dame Vera Lynn sings in sell-out concerts all over the world, her husband, Harry Lewis, makes sure that the lighting is right, the hotel room booked and the travelling arrangements meshed. While Claire Rayner churns out problem pages and romantic novels, her husband Des takes over the finances. Billie Whitelaw's husband, Robert Muller,

even though he has an established reputation of his own as a playwright and novelist, is a constantly soothing presence in his wife's life. Steve Krantz took over the televising of his wife, Judith's, bestselling novels, when she expressed disquiet at the prospect of a fiction with somebody else's effort.

I was beginning to construct a quite neat little theory, to the effect that successful women made the happiest marriages when their husbands regarded the wife's career as a sort of "baby" which they could help to nourish and sustain. Then I met both Angela Ripston and Miriam Stoppard, both of whom are companionably married but whose husbands, although no doubt offering psychological reassurance, are fairly well distanced from the minutiae of their wives' careers. Collapse of theory.

If there was one thing that set the Cooper/Thompson interviewees apart, it was, perhaps, the joyful attitude they had towards their work. "Nothing but work matters", and "Only the work existed", were remarks that were often repeated. Yet on the whole, talent and dedication notwithstanding, they lived the life and voiced the thoughts of Everywoman, especially Everywoman with a job to do. Every one of us has scripted

this, so far, unvoiced plea of Susan Hampshire's: "I am a very hardworking actress, I have just learnt the most enormous classical role, which I am playing every night, I would like to sit down with a cup of tea." (This, with the demands of home, husband and child, she is never able to do.)

If there is a conclusion to be drawn, and I'm not sure that there is, it is that the lives of famous women have more in common with those of ordinary women than with those of famous men.

Mr Alan Wurtzel, the programming vice-president of ABC, the American television company, defended his firm's portrayal of business executives as devilish fellows by pointing out that television tended to deal with larger-than-life situations and characters. Since, in real life, there have been businessmen who designed revolutionary cars and became involved with drug offences, businessmen who were created peers and went on to serve prison sentences, and businessmen who sold newspaper empires well before you think you need them. If you don't you may be lucky, but medicine now offers pain killers so feel free to use them. I'd love to see a survey on the number of women who were all for natural childbirth beforehand, but demanded a bit of help the second time. Robert Graves wrote of his wife's first labour: "Nancy had no foreknowledge of the experience - I assumed that she knew - and it took her years to recover from it."

To be published by Fontana on May 10, at £1.95.

Pain and propaganda in the labour ward

I want to put in a plea for women who do not wish to risk a painful labour, and suck to the National Childbirth Trust, Leboyer, Sheila Kitzinger and all advocates of "natural" birth. The word "labour" was not coined without reason, and my first labour was nothing less than a trauma. Although I cannot conjure up the pain (a totally inadequate word under the circumstances), I shall never forget it.

I attended all my ante-natal classes and never once heard the dread word "pain" from our (childless) physiotherapist teacher. Screaming, I remember her saying, "a thing of the past" in the hospital's labour wards. Ho, ho.

My contractions started

robustly as soon as my waters broke. Three hours later, with everything under control, the midwife said breezily that my child would be born before she had finished her shift in four hours' time, adding that my breathing was excellent.

But things got nastier and then totally out of hand. Breathing was just not relevant when the contractions became so fierce and so close together that there was no time to recover from each vice-like grip. I laboured on until the midwife asked me to stop work, "took pity" and suggested an epidural.

They didn't give me a "top up" of the blessed stuff because they wanted me to push naturally during the second stage. Alas, after an hour's renewed agony (with no urge to push), they decided to re-anesthetise the epidural, give me an

epesiomy and winch the baby out with forceps. I remember, just before my child was born, and after 12 hours of contractions, praying that I wouldn't hate her on sight. Fortunately, I didn't. It wasn't her fault after all.

For my second delivery our strategy was to have an epidural on arrival. Contractions had been painless until the midwife speeded things up and broke the waters. By the time the anaesthetist came down half an hour later, I was losing the battle.

I was moving too much to fit the epidural, he said. My husband was about to beg for petadine when nature came to the rescue. Our infant arrived 10 contractions later.

"Aren't you glad you didn't have an epidural?" my young midwife asked cheerfully, as I clutched a blue, slimy boy. Yes, but only because it was over so

quickly. The risk of pain for any longer time will ensure that, next time, I will have an epidural before the waters are broken.

For anyone who doesn't want to risk pain, especially with the first and often hardest labour, insist on drugs well before you think you need them. If you don't you may be lucky, but medicine now offers pain killers so feel free to use them. I'd love to see a survey on the number of women who were all for natural childbirth beforehand, but demanded a bit of help the second time. Robert Graves wrote of his wife's first labour: "Nancy had no foreknowledge of the experience - I assumed that she knew - and it took her years to recover from it."

Hilaire Gomer

GLENMORANGIE

10 YEARS OLD SINGLE HIGHLAND MALT SCOTCH WHISKY



J. KENNY WHITE leaves the Cooperage every year to tame the whins and broom that sprout around the Tarlogie Springs (whose hard waters, rich in mineral content, are the source of Glenmorangie). With the leaves turning and the sea-breeze gusting from the Dornoch Firth, the scything marks the true beginning of the "malt whisky season."

Handcrafted by the Sixteen Men of Tain.



PARIS DIARY

Frank Johnson

Reflections on a shiny new Louvre

It is beginning to be realized that one of the characteristics of the Fifth Republic, with its strong presidency, is that each president wants to leave his mark on Paris.

Under de Gaulle, buildings were cleaned of their centuries of grime. Under Pompidou, the oil refinery-like arts centre which bears his name was started, though it came on-stream only under his successor, Giscard d'Estaing. Mitterrand will be the first ruler since the Pharaohs to leave behind him a pyramid. This, it may be remembered, is to rise in the courtyard of the Louvre, which was thought to need a new entrance that would connect quickly through underground corridors, to its wings.

The design accepted was for an Egyptian edifice, the work of an architect named Mr. Pei who is a Chinese-American. To chauvinists, there were thus at least three grounds for objections. But many Parisians thought the design looked good in the newspapers and so welcomed the silly idea. More and more are having second thoughts as additional information becomes available. Too late! Mitterrand, acting with the authority the president possesses over national monuments, decreed that the pyramid should rise. The workmen's boards are already up in the courtyard. Excavation appears imminent.

What many did not realize was that the reflecting material of which the pyramid will be made will indeed reflect. This works well when one skyscraper reflects another in New York. But the Louvre, a seventeenth century palace, will be reflected on to twentieth century mock Egyptian. It is also possible that the pyramid will reflect the distorted images of hundreds of Japanese tourists.

Worse, the underground concourse below the pyramid will be an area of steel and glass modernity to make visitors, especially the young, feel they are not coming to anything as stuffy as an old museum. The Pompidou Centre is built on the same principle. Thus its entrance and escalators are strewn with paper cups and half-eaten croissants, since if you do not think you are in a stuffy museum, you tend not to behave as if you are in one. The existing Louvre entrance is defiantly stuffy - marmoreal stone steps and a welcome from that winged Greek lady without her head. No one sheds a croissant with her around. The tragedy is that Mitterrand, by speech, manner and training, himself a stuffy, his pyramid will be an inappropriate legacy.

Buildings last longer than policies. Pompidou was prudent and successful on policy, yet the ages will remember him largely by his hideous centre - now the leading tourist attraction in Paris, say the figures, almost certainly because people come to glimpse the now-legendary hideousness. Giscard will be regarded more favourably; he built nothing. Indeed, Pompidou's early death took place just when opinion was moving against modernity and when he was about to commit more atrocities with which, according to the gossips, Giscard did not proceed.

On reflection, one architectural change did take place under Mitterrand: the arrival of the cream, automated public lavatories (a few of which have now been removed, don't you know), which charge one franc a time, have piped music, boast an elaborate cleaning mechanism, and which do virtually everything except the actual defecation. Mitterrand's rule thus swept away the old iron-walled pissors for men, the feet of whose customers were visible during the relieving act.

Now London's public conveniences are more foul than those of Paris: the most eloquent of all symbols to the astonishing reversal, these last 15 years, in the fortunes of our two nations.

Ma Dieu!

The French are following closely the British suggestion that God might not be a man. *Le Monde* reports a document on this possibility, from the *la très austère agilité d'écologie*.

No French church authority of importance has yet chanced an opinion. But the cartoonist Pessin has depicted a female Christ carrying a cross and a Roman soldier inquiring: "Would you allow me to help you?" Trouble is expected for Pessin on grounds of blasphemy. Why should he have assumed, in the age of the modern Israeli army, that the Roman soldier would have been a woman?

BARRY FANTONI



"Never read it myself - read a lot about it, though"

Put public schools to the test

by John Rae

Independent schools believe in parental choice, but deny parents information that is needed to make their choice effective. In particular, they are secretive about the results of public examinations and go to considerable lengths to prevent parents comparing the results of one school with another.

The law now requires maintained schools to publish exam results. Independent schools are not bound by this law, so practice varies widely. Some schools make a limited summary of results available on request. Some are not even prepared to do even that. Some present results in a misleading way.

There are several ways of making exam results look better than they are. One is not to give the number of candidates; a 100 per cent pass rate in A-level maths looks impressive until you discover that the school had only three candidates. Another method is not to name the grades. At A-level, an overall pass rate tells parents little; what they need to know is the grades. The difference between a top and bottom pass grade at A-level is more revealing of a school's academic performance than the difference between pass and fail. It is also possible to disguise both the grades and the failures. One girls' school publishes a list of A-level candidates with the subjects in which they passed. But how many subjects were failed, and what grades did the passes represent?

It is surprising that parents appear to be

satisfied with these scraps of information that headmasters and headmistresses design to throw their way. If I were trying to decide whether to move my daughter from a girls' school to a boys' school sixth form, I should want to know how the two schools' A-level results compared, not just in global terms, but subject by subject. If she wanted to do A-level physics, I should want to know how many physics candidates each school had, what percentage of the candidates scored grade A and so on. It would not tell me the whole truth but would give me a line on the quality of teaching in that subject in both schools. This is more helpful than the anecdotal evidence and dinner table gossip on which parents usually have to rely.

Why are independent schools hypersensitive about any arrangement that would enable parents to compare schools' results? They operate in a competitive market and are happy to publish information that gives them an edge over their rivals, but direct comparisons are taboo. "You must not ask me to comment on that school," the head tells prospective parents. "I am sure it is good - neither better nor worse than us, just different." What he fears is that the publication of comparative exam results will prove that in that respect at least the other school is better.

The heads' objection to making comparative results available is that it would encourage the publication of league tables, which in turn would distort the schools' priorities. Independent schools do not want

to be A-level factories. Heads also argue that exam statistics need to be placed in the context of the school's academic policy.

These are sensible objections, but they rely too much on the assumption, commonly held by heads, that parents are incapable of drawing intelligent conclusions from statistics of exam performance.

Parents are not so foolish as to regard exam results as the only evidence of a school's academic quality, but they have a legitimate interest in the results. They might take the view that comparisons would stimulate heads to tackle any academic weaknesses that might exist.

I believe that all independent schools should be required to give full details of A and O-level results each year to the Independent Schools Information Service, which would then make available any comparisons that parents wanted. It should be possible for a prospective parent to summon up these on the ISIS computer. Once that principle was established, it could be extended to other information such as the number of pupils going to Oxford and Cambridge as a percentage of the year group.

I write as an individual, and I have no doubt the organizations representing independent schools will oppose my suggestion. I think parents will welcome it. Is it not time the independent schools stopped treating them as though they were children who cannot be trusted with the facts?

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The author is headmaster of Westminster School.

Peter Hennessy on the secret world of the Cabinet committees

Whitehall's real power house

This week at least ten and maybe as many as 15 Cabinet committees will meet either in the Cabinet Office or the Cabinet Room at Number Ten. Unless the Downing Street press secretary is authorized to brief political correspondents, non-attributable, naturally, on what transpired at the meetings, there is little chance of MPs or the public finding out until a White Paper is published, a decision announced or even, in many instances, until January 1, 2025 when the files will be broken open at the Public Record Office under the 30-year rule.

Yet since 1916, when Lloyd George established the Cabinet Secretariat, the Cabinet machine has been the engine room of British central government and the Cabinet committees its working parts. They are where political power and bureaucratic power meet. They are the forum in which options are considered before decisions are set in concrete.

Anyone interested in understanding the real, hidden government in Whitehall - as opposed to the visible, semi-artificial version, shaped largely by presentational factors - which dominates life at Westminster, must concentrate on the Cabinet committees. Very rarely is life in the engine room penetrated by outsiders, whether they be journalists, MPs on a select committee or scholarly researchers. When it is, another time-honoured part of the Whitehall apparatus cracks into action - the leak inquiry machine.

Only one other nation in the western world practices private government on this scale: the Republic of Ireland. A study, conducted last year by Dr Brian Hogwood and Mr Tom Mackie of

Strathclyde University discovered that all the OECD nations which operate a parliamentary system were prepared to give them their Cabinet committee lists, with the exception of Whitehall and Dublin.

In fact, Mrs Thatcher has gone further than any previous prime minister in opening up the Cabinet committee system. She has acknowledged the existence of four - economic strategy, home affairs, legislation and overseas and defence (see chart where these are depicted as EA, H, I, and OD). The Times knows of the existence of a further 48, which leaves roughly another 85 to 90 to go.

Latest intelligence suggests that Mrs Thatcher's engine room consists of some 25 standing committees and about 110 ad hoc groups known as MISCs (for Miscellaneous). Ministers have been near paranoid of late about leaks. They might consider just how little is known before complaining about how much has seeped out. The score, in Cabinet committee terms, is very nearly Secrecy 3, Open government 1.

Even a partial list of Mrs Thatcher's engine room is revealing about her style of government. Firstly, its size is in part post-1945 standards. Mr Attlee's engine room was a monstrous 466 committees, accumulated in six and a quarter years. Mr Callaghan amassed about 190 in three years. At 135 to 140 in exactly five years, Mrs Thatcher is doing well in combating committee-mania. But her machine is far bigger than she bargained for in May 1979. On entering Number Ten she told her top officials she did not want any Cabinet committees at all. "Events," as one of them put it, "soon took care of that."

She has kept her Cabinet machine slim in comparison to Mr Callaghan, for example, by brigading functions into one body or by almost ignoring some policy areas altogether. For example, there is now no separate standing ministerial committee on Northern Ireland. It is handled by OD. The glaring gap in our chart is social policy. The Wilson and Callaghan engine rooms had several clusters of ad hoc groups. What little discussion of social policy today is taken by H or in committees established for negative purposes, like MISC 87 on the deindexation of benefits.

Normally, Cabinet committees are a good guide to a government's real priorities by revealing where the action is in Whitehall. Sometimes this sub-branch of Kremlinology breaks down. For example, the cabinet committee on reform of the House of Lords, H(HL), met but only a few times and the only outcome was a decision that nothing should be done.

Sir Maurice Hankey, the first Secretary of the Cabinet, would instantly recognize his and Lloyd George's handiwork if the list kept by Sir Robert Armstrong, Mrs Thatcher's Secretary of the Cabinet, reached that part of heaven in which deceased permanent secretaries are corralled. There is the traditional distinction between standing and ad hoc groups, committees made up of ministers and those containing only officials. There are one or two mixed bodies, like the Civil Contingencies Unit which handles emergencies caused by industrial disturbance (another Lloyd George invention; he called it The Supply and Transport Committee). The reason for this, on the face of it, remarkable

survival of a 1916-model Cabinet machine, is the mysterious process by which power is transferred in Britain from one prime minister to another. The second person a new premier sees on entering Downing Street (the first is the Principal Private Secretary) is the Cabinet Secretary, the wearer of Hankey's mantle. He delineates certain urgent matters crying out for decision and suggests the kind of groups the prime minister's newly-appointed senior ministers might like to form for the purpose. Before a new incumbent knows where he or she is, there before his or her eyes is a 68-year-old system for running Britain.

When it comes to committees, Whitehall is like successive Russian armies which melt away into ice and snow as soon as their opponents try to engage them. Even if by some miracle (like a kind soul putting the full list of Cabinet committees in the post) all the bits of Mrs Thatcher's formal engine room were uncovered, the picture would still be incomplete. She has a penchant for handling difficult or delicate issues with informal ad hoc groups of ministers, officials and aides from the Downing Street Policy Unit, none of which enjoy the formal status of a Cabinet committee. She has an economic group for really market-sensitive decisions. There is another group, currently active, watching every development in the coalfields. There is even one considering the future structure of the Property Services Agency.

The Cabinet committee list is an extended version of a chart contained in Sources Close to the Prime Minister by Michael Cockerell, Peter Hennessy and David Walker, to be published by Macmillan on June 7, 1985.

CABINET OFFICE

Committee Initials	Chairman	Functions
ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL		
EA	Margaret Thatcher (Prime Minister)	Economic strategy, energy policy, changes in labour law, the most important EEC matters
E(EX)	Margaret Thatcher	Exports policy
E(NI)	Margaret Thatcher	Public sector strategy and oversight of the nationalized industries
E(NF)	Nigel Lawson (Chancellor of the Exchequer)	Nationalized industry finance
NIP	Nick Monck (Treasury official)	Official committee on nationalized industry policy
E(PSP)	Nigel Lawson	Public sector and public service pay policy
E(DL)	Nigel Lawson	Disposal and privatization of state assets
E(PU)	Norman Tebbit (Trade & Industry Secretary)	"Buy British" policy for public purchasing
E(CS)	Peter Rose (Chief Secretary)	Civil service pay and contingency plans for Civil Service strikes
E(OC)	Peter le Cheminant (Cabinet Office official)	Official committee for preparing contingency plans
PESC	John Anson (Treasury official)	Committee of finance officers handling the annual public expenditure survey
OVERSEA AND DEFENCE		
OD	Margaret Thatcher	Foreign affairs, defence and Northern Ireland
OD(O)	Sir Robert Armstrong (Cabinet Secretary)	Permanent secretaries group working to OD
OD(E)	Sir Geoffrey Howe (Foreign Secretary)	EEC policy
EQ(S)	David Williamson (Cabinet Office official)	Committee of deputy secretaries steering OD(E)
EQ(O)	David Hannay (Foreign Office official)	Official committee on routine EEC business
OD(SA)	Margaret Thatcher	Committee on the South Atlantic, the so-called "War Cabinet" of 1982
OD(FOF)	Margaret Thatcher (Lord President)	Committee on the future of the Falklands
OD(I)	Lord Whitelaw (Lord President)	Preparation of future initiatives
HOME, LEGISLATION AND INFORMATION		
L	John Biffen (Leader of the House)	Future legislation and Queen's speech
H	Lord Whitelaw	Home affairs and social policy, including education
CCU	Lord Whitelaw	The Civil Contingencies Unit of the Cabinet Office which plans for the maintenance of essential supplies and services during industrial disputes
H(HL)	Lord Brittan (Home Secretary)	Reform of the House of Lords
HD	Lord Whitelaw	Home (ie civil) defence
HD(O)	David Goodall (Cabinet Office official)	Official committee shadowing HD
HD(P)	David Heaton (Home Office official)	Updating of central and local government civil defence plans
INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY		
TWC	Sir Robert Armstrong	Transition to War Committee which updates the "War Book" for the mobilization of Whitehall and the Armed Forces in a period of international tension
ECM	Peter le Cheminant	Monthly meeting of Whitehall establishment officers on industrial and personnel policy
M10	Bernard Ingham (No 10 Press Secretary)	Weekly meeting of chief information officers
M10(E)	Bernard Ingham	Special group for handling economic information. Now meets infrequently because of persistent leaking
MIS	Margaret Thatcher	Ministerial steering committee on intelligence which supervises MIS, MIE and GCHQ and fixes budget priorities
PSIS	Sir Robert Armstrong	Permanent secretaries' steering group for ministerial group
JIC	Sir Anthony Duff (Cabinet Office official)	Joint Intelligence Committee which prepares assessments for ministers collating intelligence from all sources and circulating them weekly in the "Red Book"
JIC(EA)	Sir Anthony Duff	Economic intelligence assessments
SPM	Sir Robert Armstrong	Security and policy methods in the Civil Service
Official Com'tee	Sir Robert Armstrong	Permanent secretaries' group on internal security
Security Pers'nel	Sir Robert Armstrong	Official group supervising the working of positive vetting, polygraphs, etc
Com'tee	Sir Robert Armstrong	
AD HOC		
MISC 3	John Dempster (Lord Chancellor's Dept official)	Public records policy
MISC 7	Margaret Thatcher	Replacement of the Polar's force with Trident
MISC 14	Nigel Lawson	Policy innovations
MISC 15	Formerly head of Think Tank post now defunct	Official group for briefing MISC 14
MISC 21	Lord Whitelaw	Ministerial committee which meets each autumn to fix the level of rate and transport support grant for local authorities
MISC 32	David Goodall	Deployment of the Armed Forces outside the Nato area
MISC 42	David Goodall	Military assistance (eg training of personnel) for the armed services of friendly powers
MISC 51	David Goodall	Commodities needed for strategic purposes, eg oil
MISC 58	John Dempster	Liberalizing the declassification of official documents
MISC 62	Lord Whitelaw	The "Star Chamber" for forcing spending cuts on departmental ministers
MISC 79	Lord Whitelaw	Alternatives to domestic rates: rate-capping
MISC 83	David Goodall	Internal constitutional arrangements for the Falklands
MISC 87	Nigel Lawson	De-indexing of benefits
MISC 91	Margaret Thatcher	Choice of ALARM anti-radar missile
MISC 95	Margaret Thatcher	Abolition of the GLC and the metropolitan counties

Ferdinand Mount

The flourishing art of lying

In *The Decay of Lying*, Oscar Wilde feared for the future of the fabricator's art. He claimed that "the fashion for lying has almost fallen into disrepute": facts were everywhere, the twentieth century would be swamped by dreary realism. On the contrary, this has turned out to be the century of the con man. No falsehood has been too crude, blatant or improbable to be believed by somebody, often by several million somebodies. Wilde should really have written about *The Decay of Incredulity*.

So eager are we to believe in the sincerity of others that, when faced with an unmistakable whopper or series of whoppers, we prefer, if at all possible, to explain it away by saying "the man's mad." The lies of Colonel Gaddafi tell us so repugnant to sense that we prefer to believe that he has lost his senses; the same with General Amin. The fact that such "madmen" survive in power for years and show considerable ability in retaining power forces us into the further reaches of amateur psychiatry: "psychopaths can be incredibly cunning," we mutter. But then how far does professional psychiatry reach? British psychiatrists scarcely covered themselves with glory in the case of the Yorkshire Ripper. Nor did their American counterparts do much better in the case of the Hillside Strangler, Kenneth Bianchi.

Bianchi's interrogation by the psychiatrist was screened by the BBC just before Easter. Part One showed nice, well-spoken Ken going into a "trance" and turning into a nasty, foul-mouthed Steve who was quite unmoved by having murdered 12 young women. The trance would not have deceived a 12-year-old child, yet it fooled all except one of the shrinkers. Part Two showed the ever-sceptical Los Angeles police unmasking Bianchi as a liar, pimp and mugger-up of psychiatric literature.

Even this sort of evidence was not enough to satisfy the psychiatrists in the case of Peter Sutcliffe, who was diagnosed as "an incapacitated paranoid schizophrenic," that is someone with a bubble of madness in an otherwise unimpaired personality.

He could tell lie after lie to save his skin and still count as being mad, so long as there could be described his belief in a "divine mission" to kill prostitutes. This reasoning has now apparently convinced the prison doctors too, and Sutcliffe has been transferred to Broadmoor. A book on Sutcliffe by Gordon Burn, to be published later this month, *Somebody's husband, somebody's son*, tends to confirm the jury's view of Sutcliffe's responsibility for his actions. A wretched family, a nasty mind disturbed by unpleasant

experiences - but not too mad to manipulate his bubble of madness and keep it out of sight when it was inconvenient. Is it possible to deny that he could stop or start the evil at will?

The trouble is that as soon as the language of "patient-treatment-disease" is used, it is hard not to diagnose insanity in anyone who commits a really horrible act; for to be cured of mental disease is to be sane, and a sane man does not do such things: there is a merging of the language of medicine and the language of morality; if bad is sick, then sick is bad, and sane must be good. The more we treat someone as a patient, the likely we are to give his sincerity the benefit of the doubt. We tend to ask "What makes him behave like that?" instead of "Is he telling the truth?" and "Could he behave differently if it was to his advantage?"

Confronted with the latest wonder-working gurn, I tend to wonder rather anxiously, whether he is really divinely inspired or merely a little nutty, instead of first asking whether a man can be God on earth and still collect Rolls-Royces.

Without lessening our concern for the distressed in mind, we need to recover a sense of human cunning, a fascinating quality even when debased. The dimmest people are often extremely good at telling the most ingenious lies. And the secret of their success is our willingness to think of half a dozen reasons why they must be telling the truth. "He can't be lying, it is said."

... because he couldn't keep it up that long." In fact, contrary to the myth put about by romantic fiction, people can live a lie quite happily for years.

... because he couldn't possibly have the technical knowledge to make it all up." A couple of teach-yourself books and a white coat will go a long way.

... because he has not got the imagination to invent it all." But fantasies come easy. It's the truth that's harder to describe.

... because he cannot possibly think we'd believe him." But suppose he doesn't care. Or suppose that he has that liar's instinct for the improbable detail which convinces by its sheer improbability.

... because he has nothing to gain from the lie." But suppose he believes, in Wilde's words, that "the only form of lying that is beyond reproach is lying for its own sake." Suppose he believes in the sheer irresponsible exhilaration of making things up. We all know a few people like that, and they are usually not mad at all.

The author was until recently head of the policy unit at No 10 Downing Street.

Anne Sofer

Shaping up to the Nineties bulge

In the television interview Mrs Thatcher gave to Sir Robin Day a few weeks ago, she used a turn of phrase which stuck in my mind. Questioned about the huge numbers of unemployed young people, she replied that one of the explanations was, of course, that "we have this great big demographic thing."

Her performance was generally assessed by the press next day as glitteringly forceful and stunningly articulate, but it does seem to me astonishing that this example of verbal sloppiness should go wholly unremarked.

However, it is not Mrs Thatcher's style I want to write about today, but the "great big demographic thing" itself and not that part of it that she was referring to - the bulge in the 18-21 age group - but to the demographic roller-coaster that follows it. The educational manpower planners are faced with a problem which can be summed up as follows. The shrinking 5-16 age group that is now causing closures and amalgamations of schools up and down the country will have to provide a growing number of teachers for the present roller coaster bulge that is following on its heels.

To try to give life to the statistics (which are usefully summarized in a dry little fact sheet put out by the DES last year, *Teacher numbers - looking ahead to 1995*) I have found it helpful to imagine Sir Keith Joseph addressing, as I am sure he frequently does, a conference of sixth-formers. To make the sums simple I have assumed that out of an audience of 200 or so, 140 are following an A-level course.

Of those, 40 will fail to become "qualified leavers" within the DES's definition - that is they will not pass in two or more A-levels. Of the remaining 100 (more de la académie crème, most of whom will proceed to higher education), only eight will be needed to go into teaching in four years, and only three into secondary teaching - therefore, perhaps only one or two into the teaching of maths and science on which our future as an advanced technological economy may depend.

Accompanying Sir Keith on this imaginary outing, disguised perhaps as the DES official responsible for the calculations, I can feel moderately confident, scanning the rows of eager faces, that one or two such torch-bearers can be found.

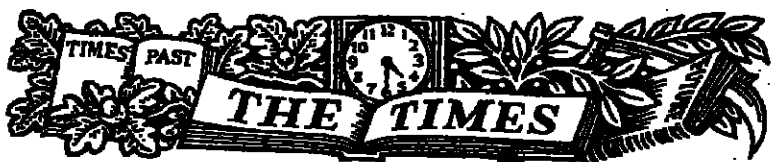
But this time, out of the remaining 100, 21 will be needed for teaching, 13 of those in the secondary sector, and six or seven of those in maths and the "hard" sciences.

Some may feel that this is good long-term news for unemployed graduates. But this is a problem that exists predominantly on the arts side. Scientists and mathematicians have tended even during the recession to get snapped up. And here is a very serious problem for Sir Keith Joseph. He has decreed that the existing number of science and maths places are to be retained during the forthcoming reduction in higher education places. He has even decreed an increase in engineering places. There is general agreement that these numbers - implying as they do an enormous and rapid shift in the A-level choices of 16-year-olds - may be very hard to achieve. Even if they are achieved, they may - if the sunrise industries boom as we all hope they will - be barely enough to satisfy the demands of industry for numerate, computer-confident and scientifically literate graduates. Where on earth are the extra maths and science teachers to come from?

The debate about the "demand for higher education" has been universally interpreted as a demand coming from below - the coming generations pounding over the traditional examination hurdles towards the 18-year-old finishing line in a form of academic athletics that guarantees that the vast majority will fall before the end. Those who have argued against the higher education cuts have argued either that a more ambitious (i.e. more middle-class) generation is limbering up for the hurdle-race, or that other athletic events (technical post-16 courses, "mature entry" should be counted as qualifying heats. But both these arguments ignore a very much stronger one - that is the other dimension to demand; the demand of the future economy.

Ten years is a desperately short time in the history of educational reform: but it is daily becoming more obvious that some sort of emergency operation is needed. We need a higher proportion of young people staying in education, studying across the academic range (including maths and science) until 18, and not failing. This means both a drastic revision of the examination system and a general and rapid raising of standards. Sir Keith Joseph knows this very well, and implied as much in his speech at Sheffield in January. But herein lies the contradiction: if his policy for raising standards succeeds, his policy for reducing higher education places will frustrate its purpose.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for Camden North.



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EXPLANATIONS WANTED

The public as well as the House of Commons will expect a full and candid statement from the Home Secretary, Mr. Leon Brittan, this week about the circumstances surrounding the atrocity committed from the Libyan People's Bureau in St James's Square and the agreement eventually reached with the Libyan government to allow the occupants of the premises, including the murderer of WPC Yvonne Fletcher, to leave Britain in freedom.

Mr Brittan's task is unenviable, for there is no way in which this episode and its ending (ballyhoo in the media about the return from Tripoli of our own diplomats and their families notwithstanding) can be presented as other than a humiliation for the United Kingdom. Murder was committed on our streets from an embassy safe-house, and there was nothing we could do to bring the criminal to justice without unacceptable consequences and without infringing the Vienna Convention to which we are in honour committed, and which now clearly needs amendment.

Given all the circumstances, including the risks to so many British nationals in Libya, and the virtual impossibility of getting a conviction of the criminal without Libyan co-operation, there was in the end no practical alternative to the course finally adopted to end the siege of the St James's Square premises. It is not, therefore, so much the way in which this horrible affair ended as the circumstances from which it arose on which minds should now be concentrated.

The questions fall into two distinct categories. First, there are those relating to the time immediately before the murder of WPC Fletcher and the attack from the former embassy on Libyan demonstrators outside. Above all, there is the matter of the alleged radio message from Tripoli which is believed to have revealed, when de-coded, that the instructions to use force against the demonstrators came the night before the event from Colonel Gaddafi. Mr Brittan

should state whether there was a such a message, and if there was, he should describe its nature. He should say whether any such message was decoded in time to have enabled precautions to be taken against what occurred, to whom it was passed and why (assuming this was the case) it did not reach Whitehall in time. Did it, furthermore, give any indication of the bomb explosion at Heathrow on Good Friday?

These are all important questions relating to the immediate circumstances to which the government must give clear answers through Mr Brittan and on which, if it fails in any respect that cannot clearly be justified by security, it must be pressed until it is forthcoming enough. But there are deeper and perhaps, ultimately, more important issues behind this affair which are not for Mr Brittan but for the Prime Minister or the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, to answer. They concern the role of the Foreign Office which has responsibility for the policy which led to these events.

It is the Foreign Office which has been responsible for the policy of maintaining diplomatic relations with the Libyan government, despite the takeover of the embassy by revolutionary "students" who were Colonel Gaddafi's agents, and when it was already clear (even if firm evidence, in the nature of the case, was unavailable) that these premises provided a headquarters for the terrorism that was already being unleashed against Libyan dissidents in Britain on Colonel Gaddafi's open instructions.

To the argument that there should have been much firmer insistence on a return to the diplomatic decencies as the price of maintaining our diplomatic relations with Libya, the Foreign Office's answer (via Mr Brittan) is, apparently, that British policy was firm enough since it refused to accord the "students" the status of diplomats. But that was all the more reason in logic for refusing to maintain diplomatic relations with the government that put them in charge of its "Bureau." Once more, diplo-

matic timorousness has brought about the dangers it has sought to avoid.

The Foreign Office has displayed its inbuilt disposition to regard diplomacy as an end in itself: to keep talking with people at all costs, whoever the people are and almost whatever their behaviour; and to avoid a critical appraisal of what lies at the end of a line of diplomacy. In many respects, the Foreign Office is regarded as a firm within a firm, and certainly Sir Geoffrey Howe (who was perambulating the Far East during the siege of St James's) has shown no sign of taking the fundamentals of Foreign Office policy in hand (what Foreign Secretary ever has?) as he took in hand the policy of the Treasury as Chancellor and, with the Prime Minister as his goad, changed it.

Far more than most Cabinet ministers, Foreign Secretaries tend to become creatures of their department which inflicts on its ministers a punishing programme of foreign travel keeping them circulating the globe like smooth-talking Flying Dutchmen. In the periods when they do come to rest, they have neither the time nor the spirit to get to grips with the fundamentals of policy; or to ask the basic sceptical questions about existing policy that are the principal contribution of a department's political head.

These deeper questions of the Foreign Office's role in the making of policy over Libya deserve thorough enquiry, along with the other circumstances of the crime in St James's Square. A long and laborious enquiry by an independent commission may not, however, be the best way of going about it. An investigation by the Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs is probably better, and on the evidence of the Grenada inquiry, could do what was necessary. It should take on this task, for however candid Mr Brittan is in the House this week, he will not be able to answer all the questions which have been raised by this lamentable episode.

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LOCAL VOTES MATTER

Expressing a ballot box preference in matters of government - including the government of those powerful corporations the trade unions - is a distillation of political will: take one such expression away and the culture of a mature, self-governing people may be diminished. For that reason municipal elections do count. Low turn-outs - predictable though they are - occasion dismay. On Thursday this week electors in an array of district council areas throughout England and Scotland and in parts of Wales have an important choice. Their very presence at the polling booths in this year of rate-capping and major council reorganization cannot but be an implicit statement about this organ of self-government.

In at least two of Thursday's contests there are impressive local stakes. In Birmingham the electorate has an opportunity to pass judgment on the administration, since 1982, of Mr Neville Bosworth and the Conservatives. They have cut the rates (thanks, it must be said, to some luck from the lottery of the rates support grant settlement). They have secured a reorganization of that most basic of municipal services, refuse collection and have gone some distance down the road of confronting the pretensions of the National and Local Govern-

ment Officers' Association. Birmingham politics offer also a Labour Party still dominated if not by the "moderates" then by men and women who accept Chamberlainite limits on municipal activity. What a pity if the brick innards of this city did not resound on Thursday with a genuinely local clash of individuals and programmes.

So, too, in Liverpool. Let no one pretend that the "people" are always right. It would be wrong for the electors of Liverpool, an abandonment of the port-city's fibrous civic tradition, to condone the programme being set before them by Mr Derek Hatton and the Labour Party majority. His utopianism is dangerous. Their judgment could precipitate the budgetary crisis which has loomed since March 29 and with it the need for some external involvement whether through the mechanism of the district auditor and the courts or directly (and very much the last gasp) from the Department of the Environment. But which is the greater enemy - mistaken electoral choice or apathy?

Local government has, sad to say, always been a pursuit of minorities. This was as true of such great struggles (now obtaining mythological proportions) as in Poplar in the 1920s when, on

a restricted franchise, less than 40 per cent of electors voted for George Lansbury and the socialists, as in the election of the Greater London Council in 1981 which brought Mr Livingstone to fame and fortune. No one can fully respect an electoral system in which - according to a reputable poll paid for by the GLC last year - barely two per cent of Londoners could name the councillor elected for their constituency and claiming to speak on their behalf. This figure holds elsewhere. It debilitates the claim of representativeness made by local government's friends.

Yet ministers and all those concerned about the mismatch within local government of taxing, spending and voting should not rejoice either in civic ignorance or in apathy at the polls - however tempted they may be this week to claim that the likely size of the non-voters' block is an endorsement of their policies towards the councils. Local apathy (and the issue of resentments and alienation it may conceal) ultimately infects democratic politics in the nation at large. Local government, unfortunately, may be a minority pursuit from which the people in their majority turn away - as this week may again show - but the issues with which it deals are real and affect us all.

NEW ONSLAUGHT ON THE AFGHANS

The assault on the Panjshir Valley shows that the war in Afghanistan is being intensified under President Chernenko; it does not, however, suggest any fundamental change in Soviet policy. The saturation bombing by planes based across the border in the USSR, and dramatic increase in the number of Soviet troops, indicate a renewed determination to end the war by crushing the largest centres of opposition.

As rulers of a multinational empire, the Soviet leaders fear that withdrawing their troops from this neighbouring territory might encourage separatist movements in the USSR itself. According to dissident sources, five people were arrested in Dushanbe, capital of the Soviet republic of Tadzhikistan, for circulating leaflets protesting against the war. Said to have links with the *mujahidin*, they were transferred to Moscow for further interrogation. Other reports of Afghan partisans penetrating the USSR's Muslim republics to spread the Islamic

revolt confirm that the Kremlin has reason for concern.

Because of Western radio broadcasts which have included the first-hand accounts of Soviet soldiers who deserted or were captured, Soviet citizens have a growing awareness of the true state of affairs; this directly contradicts the official explanation, unchanged since Brezhnev. The Kremlin marked the sixth anniversary of the communist takeover in Kabul by sending a message to President Karmal reassuring him that Moscow's "internationalist aid" would continue to uphold "the gains of the April Revolution". But since 1979 more than 20,000 Soviet soldiers have been killed or badly maimed, and casualties on this scale demand some public acknowledgment.

The newspaper of the Defence Ministry, *Krasnaya Zvezda*, recently told its readers of a heroic lieutenant who volunteered for service in Afghanistan but had both feet blown off by a mine during an earlier action in

the Panjshir Valley. Awarded a medal and fitted with artificial limbs, he was allowed to continue his army career "by way of an exception". Another article had a major on leave telling his young son of the death of a comrade, "the pride of our battalion", who was posthumously decorated for valour. The reality, however, is often very different, as the youth newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* pointed out. A young soldier, paralysed by a super-bullet, was invalided home to his mother's tiny flat, unable in his invalid chair to enter or leave independently, and abandoned by the heartless local authorities.

As the impact of the war strikes home, demonstrations of opposition are bound to increase. The pressure is on the Soviet leaders to end the war quickly, even at the cost of dramatic escalation of the fighting; but their dilemma is no reason for the West to shirk its responsibility to support the *mujahidin* in their liberation struggle.

VAT threat to quality of urban life

From Sir Terence Conran

Sir, The proposed imposition of VAT on refurbishment of buildings will, I believe, have a very deleterious effect on the quality of the environment of this country.

My company has worked with various developers in this last year and has successfully restored an old maitings building, a fine example of a 1930s garage, two 19th century churches and most recently, the Heal's Building. All of these conversions were marginally viable in true economic terms, but provide us with unusual and interesting stores which we and our customers like and which also help to enliven architecturally the areas that they are in. Many of these projects would not have been possible if they had been 15 per cent more expensive.

I am also personally involved in trying to put together a financially viable scheme for the redevelopment of Battersea, where a twelve-acre site in Docklands where the vast majority of the buildings are superb listed warehouses. VAT added to the cost is likely to turn this into an unprofitable venture.

This experience leads me to suspect that the Government has not properly considered the effects of VAT on their desire to accelerate the progress of inner city revitalisation. I'm sure it will be disastrous.

If VAT must be collected on building work then surely it would be wiser to levy a lesser amount on all construction of old and new buildings which would both then have to try and adjust to the market on equal terms.

Yours faithfully,
TERENCE CONRAN,
Habitat/Mothercare plc,
The Heal's Building,
196 Tottenham Court Road, W1.
April 25.

From the President of the British Property Federation

Sir, Your leader of April 25 ("A tax on reconstruction") exposes admirably the shortcomings of the arguments for extending VAT on building operations in the way proposed in the Finance Bill. Unfortunately your conclusion, for

all its apparent logic, would be likely to lead in practice to even greater harm.

Governments are often willing in practice to tolerate or perpetuate woolly tax borderlines if they can benefit from them financially. That is no doubt why the Chancellor proposes not to do away with the unsatisfactory present borderline but to move it to a place where it will bring in more revenue, albeit at even greater cost to the environment and the economy.

Your proposal to do away with the anomalies by extending VAT across the board to all building operations is a recipe for compounding the damage. It is a triumph of hope over experience to suppose that even if VAT were introduced at a low rate it would not subsequently creep up.

More fundamentally, it is the job of government to proclaim a clear aim of this government - to create conditions in which costs and prices stay down and worthwhile economic activity can grow. To fulfil this aim it would be entirely logical to remove VAT from building operations altogether or, if this is impossible for revenue reasons, at least not to extend its scope.

Any extension of VAT in the field of construction, especially when the charge cannot be passed on to the end user, is bound to reduce legitimate building activity, and to have adverse consequences for employment and for standards of efficiency in industry and commerce.

That is why, in its submissions to the Government, the British Property Federation has recommended a limitation of the damage by excluding from VAT the substantial refurbishment or reconstruction of buildings which cannot or should not be demolished and by providing proper transitional arrangements with full zero-rating for building operations for which commitments had already been incurred by Budget day.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS MARLER, President,
British Property Federation,
35 Catherine Place, SW1.
April 26.

Surface ships at war

From Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton

Sir, Sir Ronald Mason writes (April 14) from the British Atlantic Committee, no doubt to convey the misleading impression that he represents the views of that committee, which is still sharply divided over the issues to which he refers, as will become clear at their council meeting next month.

Sir Ronald offers what he is pleased to describe as "more factual" observations on the transatlantic reinforcement and resupply problem in wartime. None of his four *ex-parte* statements has any more basis in fact than Mr Scargill's claim that we produce the cheapest deep-mined coal.

These two assertions of personal opinion share the naive belief that if

a statement is made loud enough and often enough quite a lot of people may come to believe it. This will not do for an adult debate about a serious and difficult subject. It can, and must, proceed between expert practitioners of all disciplines, without the grinding of personal "high-tech" axes.

As for Sir Ronald's sneer at the "interested parties" who wish to add more surface warships to the Allied and national fleets, they include the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic and the Commander-in-chief of Britain's Fleet, whose requirements, so far from being "ill-defined", are precise and explicit. I know whose opinion I prefer.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
HILL-NORTON,
House of Lords,
April 17.

Landscaping and BR

From Colonel J. F. Williams-Wynne

Sir, Your correspondence on this topic seems to imply that "landscaping" means planting trees alongside roads and railway lines.

Please may I draw attention to the dangers which trees cause when so planted and to the fact that most prudent landowners nowadays are not only taking out unlimited insurance cover but are actually felling any tree which might possibly be a risk.

It was, of course, different when traffic was horse-drawn and slow moving and it is astonishing that trees have been put alongside roads and railway lines, with perhaps the most extraordinary example being the very narrow strip between the north-bound carriageway of the M1 and the Euston to Glasgow main line just south of the Watford Gap service area. Along that particular stretch trains travel at up to 100 mph whilst road traffic goes almost as fast.

Bushes are a different matter and

can be used not only as a screen but also as a windbreak. To plant trees in close proximity to high-speed traffic seems to me crazy, whatever the need for landscaping.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WILLIAMS-WYNNIE,
Peniarth,
Tywyn, Merioneth.

Missing manpower

From the Reverend C. C. R. Merivale

Sir, For some months I have been negotiating with the Richmondshire District Council, in their capacity as agents for the MSC, in the hope of getting our urgent renovation in our parish church.

This week I received a letter informing me that the work could not be done because, and I quote, "we have not been able to recruit sufficient labour".
Yours faithfully,
C. C. R. MERIVALE,
The Vicarage,
Hawes,
North Yorkshire.
April 21.

Mother and son

From Mr Anthony West

Sir, I could wish that Ms Glendinning had seen fit to disclose her interest somewhere in her letter to you (April 14) attacking my credibility in all matters relating to Dame Rebecca West. Ms Glendinning writes to you in the role of Dame Rebecca's official biographer, and as Dame Rebecca's own choice of official biographer at the time I may add that when Ms Glendinning initially approached me, asking me to talk with her about my troubled relationship with Dame Rebecca, she was good enough to inform me that her feeling for her subject was reverential. I made it plain to her that mine was not, and that my attitude was rooted in my vital experience.

On that basis we met, and our meeting was followed by an

exchange of correspondence. Ms Glendinning has assured me that my letters have been useful to her in matters of background and atmosphere if in nothing else.

Interestingly enough, the latest of her letters to me, dated April 17, gives me the telephone number at which I am to reach her when she next comes to this country, and concludes by telling me that she is mine "as ever".

I assume from this that I am not to take her letter to you, Sir, altogether seriously. For my part I will not do so, and I hope that those of your readers who gave the thing their momentary attention will follow my example.
I am, yours faithfully,
ANTHONY WEST,
Box 122,
Fisher's Island,
New York 06390: USA.
April 22.

Lead-free petrol plea

From Mr Des Wilson and others

Sir, As active supporters of the campaign to stop the addition of lead to petrol, we note with concern that a full year has passed since ministers announced their intention to take this step and there is still no indication of a date for the introduction of lead-free petrol or for the availability of cars manufactured to run on it.

We are aware that the issue will be discussed in June at a meeting of EEC ministers and we believe it imperative that the British representatives at that meeting insist on an earlier date than the best British proposal at the moment - "by 1990 at the latest".

We draw your attention to the fact that West Germany intends to act by

1986-87, and that an EEC working party has exhaustively considered the economics and technicalities of the issue and come to the conclusion that the introduction of lead-free petrol is both practical and less costly than the vested interests have claimed.

While the evidence of exact health ill-effects will remain controversial, possibly for years to come, the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution that it would be prudent to create a "substantially greater safety margin for the population as a whole by taking all practical steps to reduce man-made dispersal of lead and human exposure to it" is as valid today as it was in April, 1983.

Before the decision to move to lead-free petrol was announced

Setting a fair price for new books

From Mr R. G. M. Clow and Mr W. T. C. Anderson

Sir, It is regrettable that E. J. Craddock, in his article on publishing (April 24), appears to know little about the British book trade (both publishing and bookselling). If he had researched the history of the trade he would have discovered that the abolition of the net book agreement (NBA) would not cure all the ills of the booktrade, but would in fact create chaos.

The article argued that books are too expensive and that if retail price maintenance was removed, they would become cheaper. This may well be true in the case of bestsellers like the novels of Jeffrey Archer and Frederick Forsyth. But for the majority of those authors not fortunate enough to have a readership on such a scale, the cost of their books will be higher.

Publishers are not, if the NBA is abolished, going to increase their terms to independent booksellers to allow them to cut prices in competition with the large chain stores; so to offset the reductions on bestsellers the "more-than-ephemeral titles" are going to become even more unobtainable.

Both books picked by Mr Craddock "almost at random" as examples of over-pricing are so priced because their print runs are low. This is because the publishers realise that the market is small.

If the NBA was abolished there is no doubt whatsoever that these books would never see the light of day. Similarly, these particular publishers, who care about publishing good quality books catering for a diversity of interests, would also disappear.

Book clubs exist because they can, after a period of six months, compete in price against bookshops, but if the shops were to lose their restriction, the clubs would lose their competitive edge. Paperbacks are the instantaneous success that they are because the interest in the title has grown whilst it was

available only in hardback. The sales of paperbacks would not be so immediately spectacular (and the price probably higher) if they were to hit the shelves cold.

As for remainders, one has only to look as far as the recent success of the Susan Reynolds's chain to see the results of a cost-cutting operation - the empire is now in the hands of the Official Receiver.

Books are not expensive when compared to other items competing for leisure time spending, and compare favourably with, say, a meal in a restaurant, a night out at the theatre, or even a pair of shoes. A book can be re-read, borrowed or stolen on innumerable occasions - a meal is not so appetising the second time round!

The imposition of VAT on books is a smokescreen. The government is whatever hue would find it difficult to justify VAT on books for precisely the reasons that Mr Craddock, in company with the French as well as the Irish governments, only too well knows.

In France the demise of bookshops after Giscard abolished retail price maintenance was such that the Government had to re-establish it. This prevented the French book trade from disintegrating further into Gallic chaos - a state no dissimilar to that in which the British book trade found itself prior to the establishment of the net book agreement in January, 1900.

If the public and the trade want a healthy, broad-based industry, then the NBA has to remain. The agreement is there to protect the book-buying public, allowing the publisher's choice of price as wide a selection as is possible. Does Mr Craddock really want to narrow the market?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT G. M. CLOW,
WILLIAM ANDERSON,
John Smith & Son (Glasgow) Ltd,
57 St Vincent Street,
Glasgow.
April 25.

Shylock revisited

From Mr Peter Robinson

Sir, Having broken through an obvious reticence William Frankel's article (April 12) on the new RSC *Merchant of Venice* displays many signs of that philistinism and paranoia which bedevils Jews, and others, who have pointed out the play's anti-Semitism. Mr Frankel's lament fails, however, to inspire any sympathy for his viewpoint because it so crudely plays upon guilt-feelings towards Jews which are beyond the bounds of the play. The Holocaust augments our appreciation of the play, increases forcibly our awareness of Shylock's predicament but it adds not one whit to the play's meaning.

Mr Frankel's paranoia is evident in the blurring of several important distinctions. He confuses the motives behind the presentations of Shylock by actors such as Keane, Irving, Olivier, and O'Toole. The portrayals of the two latter are indeed likely to have been prompted by Nazi atrocities, but the former? The artist's interest in experiment,

innovation, response to that very speech ("Hath not a Jew eyes?"), surely, has much a role as any concern at racial fair play.

This tradition of the nobly suffering Jew is then elevated to the status of a "convention". But a convention between whom? Successive generations of actors, or actors/directors and Jewish members of audiences? Further distinctions are blurred in the polemical onslaught that between an audience's applause for speech's meaning and a speech's delivery, for instance, Does applause for Macbeth condone the murder of kings? I think not.

One's conclusion is that Mr Frankel has willfully exaggerated the anti-Semitism of the play into a statement of anti-Semitism by Ian McDiarmid and that he seriously construes audiences to be willing to enter into a grand conspiracy. The tone of this article does no justice to its author's obvious concern.

Yours faithfully,
PETER ROBINSON,
2 York Road,
Colchester, Essex.
April 17.

Caring partnership

From the Reverend Christopher Hamel Cooke and the Reverend Richard McLaren

Sir, Following the announcement of the Government's proposed enquiry into GP services and primary health care we would like to draw attention to the urgent need for better co-operation between the caring professions working in the community. Too often the genuine appreciation of another discipline's contribution is made less effective by lack of proper communication and organisation.

For instance, the work of doctors and clergy overlaps considerably, especially in helping people suffering from depression, stress and sheer loneliness - states that often result from wider problems like unemployment and marital breakdown.

In these conditions we believe that treatment and ministry belong together. Indeed we have just announced our agreement to work together in partnership with a nearby medical practice in the proposed Healing Centre in the crypt of St Marylebone Church. This arrangement should enable a much more comprehensive service and efficient pattern of referral.

To our knowledge this practical expression of partnership at St Marylebone between medicine and religion is unique in this country - certainly in the provision of outpatient care. Thus we hope plans will be of value to the debate and catch the imagination of your readers.
Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER HAMEL COOKE,
Director,
RICHARD McLAREN, Appeal Director,
St Marylebone Healing & Counselling Centre,
St Marylebone Parish Church,
Marylebone Road, NW1.
April 19.

Embassy outrage

From Mr J. G. Chapman

Sir, Can you explain the deafening silence from the EEC regarding the Libyan Bureau affair?

I would have thought that the incident would have brought an immediate condemnation from Brussels at the very least. Surely it can be seen that what has happened in London, could easily have occurred in Paris, Bonn, Rome or any of the other EEC capitals.

Such prompt action by the EEC leaders would surely have made some impact on Colonel Gaddafi's mind. It might also have shown some of us who are losing our enthusiasm for the European ideal that maybe the high net cost to the UK has some compensations.

Yours faithfully,
J. G. CHAPMAN,
74 High Road,
Hockley, Essex.
April 23.

Unfair daffodils

From Ms Patricia A Tyrell

Sir, I am delighted to learn from Dr Croft (April 23) that I am not the only person being ostracized by daffodils.

I mine insist on facing the street when they bloom and are consequently at right angles to the house. I agree that sun direction has nothing to do with it and have come to the conclusion that they disapprove of my life-style but wish to keep track of me with an occasional sideways glance.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA A. TYRELL,
3 Edgumbe Road,
Roche,
St Austell, Cornwall.
April 23.

From Mrs Barbara Milne

Sir, Dr Croft should really not complain about a flower with such highly placed poetic connections, and his wife, as he observes, is quite wrong to tell him that they are looking at the sun. What they are looking at, being aesthetic by nature is the view.

We have many daffodils in our woodland, which faces north-east, but they too turn their backs on the sun to admire the magnificent view over Porlock Vale and the sea towards Wales, their homeland! Dr Croft should realise that flowers with such sensitivity cannot be dragged; rather, he must learn from them and seek solace and peace in these things of beauty, thereby acquiring "joy forever".

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA MILNE,
Woodborough,
Porlock Weir,
Minehead, Somerset.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

And for my next half decade . . .

Anniversary celebrations are inevitably selective. One could hardly expect Mrs Thatcher, in reminding us that inflation had been brought lower than for 16 years, to acknowledge that the unemployment rate is higher than for half a century. Nor, in proclaiming the British economy to be the envy of "many nations", to note that not one of the six heads of government due to visit her for the London economic summit presides over a worse dole queue than Britain's.

Yet a snapshot of the British economy at the end of last year did not look too bad in the international album. We had the fastest growth rate among the major Europeans, combined with a below-average inflation rate. Unemployment appeared to have levelled off; employment it is now estimated, had risen 200,000 since the spring.

What happened then is more questionable. Examining month-by-month figures is never a very profitable business, especially those months most confused by national holidays and weather. But it is important for trying to settle a sudden squall of argument that has blown up over Mr Nigel Lawson's fiscal and monetary stance.

There is an old saw, much quoted by Sir Geoffrey Howe's supporters in 1981, that unpopular Budgets get the best verdicts from history. On this topsy-turvy measure, Mr Lawson would have by now, a certain amount to worry about.

His first and popular Budget was not, of course, of the old give-away kind that brought Nemesis to former much-applauded Chancellors. Indeed, now it is safely launched, the Treasury is increasingly frank in admitting its surprise that the Budget received such a good all-round reception, particularly from industry.

It was undoubtedly a very clever Budget. In give-and-take, the quickness of the hand must deceive the eye. Just one or two elements missing from the package - most importantly, if there had been no further cut in the national insurance surcharge - and the CBI would have rumbled the other way. The Budget was also clever in its macroeconomic figuring, so that suspicious City took time to work out that it was mildly and subtly expansionary; that, set against the background of the Chancellor's longer-term plans, there had indeed been a change of direction. Now the money numbers are beginning to rise, and there is a ripple of unease in the markets, to the sound of I-told-you-so from the purists.

Yet the trickle of economic statistics since the Budget has made it clear that a bit of a push was needed. Even after allowing for imperfect seasonal adjustment after Christmas, there was plainly some slowdown from the growth with which we ended 1983. Unemployment began rising sharply again. Industrial production dipped in February. Consumer spending for the whole first quarter dropped back to the levels recorded last summer.

Now all these can be argued smoothly away. Too much of the recent recovery has been consumer-led, a pressure that has only found out our weakness against foreign competition. A check in consumer spending might be a welcome sign of a redirection of national effort into savings and investment. Industrial production may have been only a blip in admittedly imperfect statistics; taking a run of months, the trend was still clearly upwards.

Unemployment steadied this month though it is a measure of our conditioned pessimism that we were relieved to see a seasonally-adjusted total of more than three million fall by a mere 500, after three years of economic recovery. And early

indications are that retail sales picked up. The stock market hit new heights in March, staggered and then reached new records last week.

But none of this suggests an economy in imminent danger of overheating. It suggests there was some risk, before the Budget, of another pause in the recovery, of the kind suffered in 1981. The comparison is particularly relevant, because the blow inflicted in 1981 was a 4 per cent hike in interest rates.

A sharp rise in interest rates now, and industry will destock, not restock, this summer. It is not necessary for history to repeat itself in this way. A well-knit argument published today by Mr Roger Bootle of Capel Cure Myers, presents the case for longer-term confidence about the monetary trends. Bear with a brief, and non-technical, summary. Even if the Government "overfunds" (that is, sells more debt than it needs to cover the public sector's deficit) by a billion pounds in 1984-85, it will still need two billion less than it did last year, which should be acceptable to the markets. This assumes, critically, that the Government does not overspend; but so far, and provided the miners' strike does not ruin the nationalized industries, the expenditure figures look good. Then, even if bank lending rises by a billion more than last year - and again, with fingers crossed, there are good reasons to expect nothing worse - probable developments in other elements of sterling M3 should allow the Government to hit the top end of its 6 per cent to 10 per cent target.

Of course, the Chancellor's new strategy is blessed with more targets than for sterling M3. His widest, PSL2, has been growing at an awful annual rate of over 16 per cent these past three months. But his narrowest, little Mo, has been trotting along at only 4½ per cent and that is arguably the best gauge for interest-rate policy.

But are there signs of trouble elsewhere in the economy? Clearly, there are beginning to be specialized labour shortages, as was inevitable very early on in such a dramatic industrial shake-up. But it would be monstrous, with 12.6 per cent unemployment, to translate that into generalized labour market pressure. Admittedly, wage settlements are far too high, but this is not because they have surged up with the past year of growth; it is simply that they have failed to slow down with prices, even while unemployment doubled.

The Government's answer to this should not be to choke off recovery, but to press ahead with its avowed determination to "make the labour market work". Mr Thatcher's bitter anniversary reflection must be the Government's failure to create a wage and employment policy in its own image. Having rejected formal incomes policy, it has never properly developed its own alternative. Finding some way out of this dilemma must be high on the Prime Minister's list for the next four or five, or how ever many years. In the meantime, there is still more cause to hope than to panic about the course of 1984.

Output per employee still seems to be rising fast. This suggests many firms can expand further and faster than expected, without running into labour bottlenecks. It means it would be unwise to discount the Chancellor's forecast of a drop in inflation to 4½ per cent this autumn. It also reinforces the need to aim for growth - if unemployment is not to rise still further. In this peculiar recovery, productivity is the key pressure gauge to watch.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

NEWS IN BRIEF

Backing for Budget 'trade-off'

The Chancellor's Budget trade-off in withdrawing capital allowances while reducing Corporation Tax found favour with 83 per cent of those polled in an early-April business opinion survey conducted for the Institute Directors.

Almost half those in the survey felt the budget had made little difference to the overall position of their companies, with a further 40 per cent perceiving some benefit.

Two thirds of the businessmen were more optimistic about corporate prospects than they were six months before. About 90 per cent were either more optimistic, or at least as optimistic, compared with six months before about prospects generally for the economy.

Isle of Man likely to cut UK customs link

By Jonathan Clare

Value Added Tax rate is automatically tied to Britain's, link with the British mainland sometime during the next 10 years.

Dr Edgar Mann, chairman of the Finance Board, said he believed the severance of the link "was highly desirable".

The customs and excise arrangements with the mainland mean that the island's

quarter GNP figures may show a tiny increase, if any at all. The Federal Reserve is continuing to pour on the liquidity, as indicated by the fact that the "adjusted monetary base" (banks' reserves plus currency) is still rising at more than 10 per cent a year, but the money supply is not rising at anything like that rate since the middle of 1983 (money M1 has risen at only 6 per cent a year).

The commodities markets have given a thumbs down to the recovery in the last two or three months. Copper seemed to be going well for a time, but in the last week copper futures have dropped nearly 10 per cent. Lumber futures have taken a sickening dive, falling by more than 20 per cent in four weeks. Treasury bonds have fallen very sharply. All commodities futures are back to their December levels, abandoning all of the 1984 gains.

Target Life likely to be sold to institutions in £50m shake-up

By Jeremy Warner

Morgan Grenfell is planning to place conditionally most of the issued share capital of Target Life with a range of City institutions at a price which will value the fast-growing assurance and unit trust group at more than £50m.

Details of the deal, which will allow both the life company's existing shareholders, Charterhouse J Rothschild and Mr Saul Steinberg's US based Reliance Insurance group to realize their investments, are expected to be announced this week.

Morgan Grenfell will end up the largest shareholder and the present management, led by Mr David Montagu and Mr John Stone, will be left with a 10 per cent holding and options on a further 5 per cent.

The rest of the shares will be placed with up to 30 of the City's leading financial insti-

tutions. Morgan Grenfell intends to stick to the management's previous plan of achieving full stock market listing for Target within the next three years.

The change of ownership at Target has become necessary because of the planned £1 billion merger between Charterhouse J Rothschild and Mr Mark Weinberg's Hambro Life, a direct competitor of Target in unit-linked life assurance.

The merger would almost certainly be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission if Target were kept within the Charterhouse J Rothschild stable.

Morgan Grenfell has provided a neat solution to the problem of divestment by combining Target management's desire for independence and an eventual stock market quote with the

back-up of a powerful merchant bank as the leading minority shareholder.

The bank recently announced the acquisition for an undisclosed sum of a 29.9 per cent stake in Fincham Denny, one of the leading London stock jobbing firms. Its emergence as a big minority shareholder in Target will add to the impression that it is attempting to mirror the development of other city groups into a financial supermajority.

Morgan Grenfell has been notably absent among the big City merchant banks from participation in the rapidly growing life assurance business and unlike most of its competitors, it has no stable of unit trusts.

A surprising aspect of the deal is Mr Steinberg's decision

to divest himself of his 40 per cent shareholding since he does not need it.

Mr Steinberg, the entrepreneurial Wall Street financier, has announced plans in the United States to increase to 25 per cent his stake in Walt Disney Productions.

Target's new annual life and pension premiums rose 71 per cent to £15.6m last year and new single premiums were nearly 200 per cent higher at £35.5m. Unit Trust sales grew by even more to £68m.

Last year Target had an average growth of 34.7 per cent in its equity funds, the third best result among the 25 biggest unit trust groups.

The total value of all unit trusts is now well in excess of £13 billion. In March there were record sales amounting to £328m.

Rift at Richardsons, Westgarth

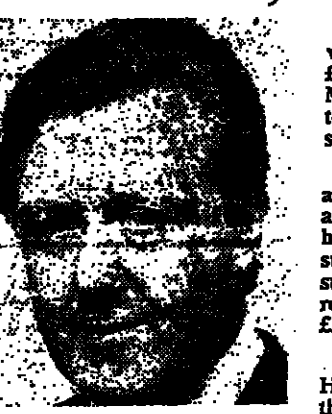
By Our City Staff

Sir Benjamin Slade has resigned as a director of Richardsons, Westgarth, the loss-making engineering and steel stockholding group, and sold most of his 14.9 per cent holding because of a disagreement on the way the company has been managed since he joined last August.

Sir Benjamin's fast growing Shirlstar Container Transport, now the largest container leasing operation in Britain, bought its stake in from Caparo Industries last June but its relationship with the management has been fraught ever since.

Disagreement is understood to have come to a head over the recent sale to a Merseyside company of the Humber Graving Dock ship-repair offshoot.

Sir Benjamin said yesterday that he had disagreed with other directors over policy for the



Sir Benjamin Slade: resigning from board

future of the company and was concerned that past mistakes would be repeated.

"I therefore found it impossible to continue my support for either the board or the executive management," he said.

Richardsons, Westgarth, valued by the stockmarket at £3.4m, appointed Mr John Macdonald as managing director in 1982, with the brief of stemming losses.

Since then the group has sold a number of troubled subsidiaries and figures for the first half of 1983, the last available, suggest he was having some success. Pretax losses were reduced from £834,000 to £241,000.

The return to profit of Humber Graving Dock, where the group has a £20m contract to build a diving support vessel for Houlder Offshore, was seen as crucial to the group's recovery. In February it was sold to Seaforth Welding for an undisclosed sum.

Sir Benjamin, aged 37, plans to bring Shirlstar to the stock market in the near future.

Disney may seek a white knight

From Nick Gilbert

The takeover plot at Walt Disney Productions, purveyors of light entertainment for generations of children, is rapidly becoming suitable for adult viewing only.

Mr Saul Steinberg, the Wall Street financier, remembered in the City of London for his part in the Leasco-Permagon battles of years ago, has paid \$177m (£126m) for a 9.3 per cent stake. To the anguish of the Disney board, Mr Steinberg's company, Reliance Group, now plans to increase its stake to 25 per cent "for investment purposes only."

Disney directors are furious that Mr Steinberg bought his shares "without prior consultation" and says his proposed further buying is "an apparent attempt to acquire control on the cheap."

Meanwhile, Disney shares have soared from \$50 to \$65, with Wall Street expecting a long, profitable corporate fight. Still to show his hand is Mr Roy E. Disney, nephew of the late Walt Disney, whose sudden board resignation last month sparked takeover rumours, and who has increased his own stake to 4 per cent.

Disney may use its recently increased borrowings to buy back Mr Steinberg's stake. United States managers show no compunction against using shareholders' money to maintain their own position.

Disney's recent financial showing has been poor. Recent half-year net profits were 34 per cent down at \$31m despite increased revenues of \$648m. However, it is asset rich, with a film library whose value is estimated at between \$300m and \$500m and large real estate holdings.

Mr Steinberg is a highly proficient shareholder, more likely to sell a strategic stake in the Disney prize to a third party than to seek full control.

The Disney managers, more used to wild life on the screen than off, must be looking around for a possible white knight.

Whitehall to review Sealink prospects

By Our Financial Correspondent

The Government's mergers panel is to meet on Wednesday to consider the competition implications of the various bids that could be made for Sealink, the cross-Channel ferry and ports subsidiary of British Rail.

About a dozen companies, including P&O, British European Ferries, Sea Containers, Trafalgar House and a consortium including National Freight and the Sealink management, have expressed an interest since the Government first announced the auction last month.

The Office of Fair Trading

has already completed a report on European Ferries' application to be released from undertakings not to bid for Sealink it gave when its first takeover attempt was blocked by the Monopolies Commission three years ago.

The OFT report was submitted to Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, last week. Its conclusions have not been made public, but there is little expectation in the City or the shipping industry that European Ferries will be allowed to make another bid.

TENDERS MUST BE LODGED AT THE BANK OF ENGLAND, NEW ISSUES (AL WATLING STREET, LONDON, EC4M 9AA) NOT LATER THAN 10.00 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 2ND MAY 1984, OR AT ANY OF THE BRANCHES OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND OR AT THE CLERKS' OFFICE, 15, MARK LANE, LONDON, EC3R 7DF, NOT LATER THAN 3.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 1ST MAY 1984.

ISSUE OF £1,100,000,000
9½ per cent TREASURY CONVERTIBLE STOCK, 1989
MINIMUM TENDER PRICE £95.50 PER CENT

PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS:
Deposit with tender £50.00 per cent
On Monday, 4th June 1984 Balance of purchase money
INTEREST PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY ON 15TH APRIL AND 15TH OCTOBER

This Stock is an investment falling within Part II of the First Schedule to the Trustee Investments Act 1961, and the proceeds of the sale of the Stock to the Council of the Bank of England for the purpose of the National Debt Commissioners for public funds under their management.

1. The principal of and interest on the Stock will be a charge on the National Loans Fund, with recourse to the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.
2. The Stock will be registered at the Bank of England or at the Bank of Ireland, Belfast, and will be transferable in accordance with the provisions of the Stock Transfer Act 1963. Transfers will be free of stamp duty.
3. Interest will be payable half-yearly on 15th April and 15th October, income tax will be deducted from payments of more than £5 per annum. Interest overruns will be transmitted by post. The first interest payment will be made on 15th October 1984 at the rate of £5.9999 per £100 of the Stock.
4. Holders of 9½ per cent Treasury Convertible Stock, 1989 may, at the option of holders, be converted in whole or in part into 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2006 (hereinafter referred to as "Conversion Stock"), as on the following dates and at the indicated rates:-
Nominal amount of Conversion Stock per £100 nominal of 9½ per cent Treasury Convertible Stock, 1989

Date of conversion	Multiple
15th April 1985	250
15th October 1985	250
15th April 1986	250
15th October 1986	250
15th April 1987	250
15th October 1987	250

5. Notwithstanding the administrative arrangements for the exercise of the options to convert and to exercise the Stock, the conversion will be made to holders at the appropriate times. Where a holding is held jointly by more than two holders options to convert may be exercised by a majority of them. Completed forms of acceptance in respect of each of the following conditions must be submitted to the Bank of England, New Issues, New Change, London, EC4M 9AA, not later than 3.00 p.m. on the sixth working day before each date of conversion.
6. The principal of and interest on the Stock will be a charge on the National Loans Fund, with recourse to the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.
7. The Stock will be registered at the Bank of England or at the Bank of Ireland, Belfast, and will be transferable in accordance with the provisions of the Stock Transfer Act 1963. Transfers will be free of stamp duty.
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Nominal amount of Conversion Stock per £100 nominal of 9½ per cent Treasury Convertible Stock, 1989

Date of conversion	Multiple
15th April 1985	250
15th October 1985	250
15th April 1986	250
15th October 1986	250
15th April 1987	250
15th October 1987	250

10. Tenders must be lodged at the Bank of England, New Issues (AL WATLING STREET, LONDON, EC4M 9AA) NOT LATER THAN 10.00 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 2ND MAY 1984, OR AT ANY OF THE BRANCHES OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND OR AT THE CLERKS' OFFICE, 15, MARK LANE, LONDON, EC3R 7DF, NOT LATER THAN 3.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 1ST MAY 1984.
11. Each tender must be for face amount and at one price. The minimum price, and the maximum price, will be £95.50 per cent. Tenders must be made at the minimum price or at higher prices which are multiples of 25p. Tenders lodged without a price being stated will be deemed to have been made at the minimum price.
12. A separate cheque representing a deposit at the rate of £50.00 for every £100 of the nominal amount of the Stock must be submitted with each tender. The cheque must be drawn on a bank, and be payable in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.
13. Tenders must be for a minimum of £100 Stock and for multiples of Stock as follows:-
Amount of Stock tendered for Multiple
£100-£250 250
£250-£500 500
£500-£750 750
£750-£1,000 1,000
£1,000-£250,000 250,000 or greater

14. Any tenderer who reserves the right to reject any tenderer's tender and may therefore allow to tenderers less than the full amount of the Stock. Tenderers will be ranked in descending order of price and tenders will be made to tenderers whose tenders are at or above the lowest price at which Her Majesty's Treasury decide that any tender should be accepted. The tenderer whose tender is not less than the minimum tender price and whose tender is accepted will be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of the Stock. The tenderer whose tender is not less than the minimum tender price and whose tender is not accepted will be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of the Stock. The tenderer whose tender is not less than the minimum tender price and whose tender is not accepted will be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of the Stock. The tenderer whose tender is not less than the minimum tender price and whose tender is not accepted will be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of the Stock.

15. Letters of allotment in respect of Stock allotted, being the only form in which the Stock may be transferred, will be issued by post at the risk of the tenderer. The tenderer will be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of the Stock. The tenderer whose tender is not less than the minimum tender price and whose tender is not accepted will be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of the Stock. The tenderer whose tender is not less than the minimum tender price and whose tender is not accepted will be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of the Stock. The tenderer whose tender is not less than the minimum tender price and whose tender is not accepted will be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of the Stock.

16. Letters of allotment in respect of Stock allotted, being the only form in which the Stock may be transferred, will be issued by post at the risk of the tenderer. The tenderer will be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of the Stock. The tenderer whose tender is not less than the minimum tender price and whose tender is not accepted will be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of the Stock. The tenderer whose tender is not less than the minimum tender price and whose tender is not accepted will be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of the Stock. The tenderer whose tender is not less than the minimum tender price and whose tender is not accepted will be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of the Stock.

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18. Letters of allotment in respect of Stock allotted, being the only form in which the Stock may be transferred, will be issued by post at the risk of the tenderer. The tenderer will be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of the Stock. The tenderer whose tender is not less than the minimum tender price and whose tender is not accepted will be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of the Stock. The tenderer whose tender is not less than the minimum tender price and whose tender is not accepted will be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of the Stock. The tenderer whose tender is not less than the minimum tender price and whose tender is not accepted will be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of the Stock.

Rolls-Royce free to take airline stake

By Jonathan Davis

Rolls-Royce, the State-owned aero-engine manufacturer, does not require Government approval for its plans to provide £30m in equity and loans for a new United States airline, the Department of Trade and Industry said yesterday.

The decision to take an equity stake in Jet Express, a low fare "no frills" Chicago-based airline, was a purely commercial one, which Rolls-Royce was free to take without government consent, a spokesman for the department said. Officials had been kept informed, however.

Filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission in New York at the end of last week confirmed that Rolls-Royce was subscribing \$2.5m in equity for the new airline, representing about 6 per cent of the share capital. It is also providing up to \$40m of finance to help Jet Express buy four second hand Boeing 727 jets.

Ironically the four jets are powered by engines manufactured by Rolls-Royce's competitor, Pratt and Whitney. In return for Rolls-Royce's financial assistance, however, Jet Express has promised to buy two new Boeing 757 aircraft powered by Rolls-Royce RB 211-535 engines.

The aircraft will be delivered in 1986, and Rolls-Royce expects to benefit from further orders if and when the new airline begins to expand. Its operations initially will be confined to flights between Chicago and New York and Los Angeles.

of Stock allocated to him, subject to each case to payment of his cheque, but such notification will confer no right on the tenderer to transfer the Stock so allocated.

16. No allotment will be made for a less amount than £100 Stock. In the event of partial allotment, the balance of the amount paid at deposit will, when returned, be remitted by cheque despatched by post at the risk of the tenderer: if no allotment is made the amount paid as deposit will be returned. Payment in full may be made at any time after allotment but no discount will be allowed on such payment. Interest may be claimed on a day-to-day basis on any overpayment which may be accepted at a rate equal to the London Inter-Bank Offer Rate for seven days ending on the date of payment, plus 1 per cent per annum. Such rate will be determined by the Bank of England by reference to market quotations. On the due date for the relevant payment, the LIBOR obtained from such source or sources as the Bank of England shall consider appropriate will be used to calculate any amount in respect of the Stock which will be the amount of such Stock liable to cancellation and any amount previously paid liable to forfeiture.

17. Letters of allotment may be split into denominations of multiples of £100 on written request received by the Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London, EC4M 9AA, on any date not later than 3.30 p.m. on 1st May 1984. Such requests must be signed and must be accompanied by the letters of allotment.

18. Letters of allotment must be surrendered for registration, accompanied by a completed registration form, when the balance of purchase money is paid, unless payment in full has been made before the due date, in which case they may be surrendered for registration not later than 4th June 1984.

19. Tender forms and copies of this prospectus may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London, EC4M 9AA, or at any of the Branches of the Bank of England, or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England, 25 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, G1 2BB; at the Bank of Ireland, Moyle Buildings, 1st Floor, 20 Colman Street, Belfast, BT1 5BN; at Mullens & Co., 15 Moorgate, London, EC2M 6AN; or at any office of The Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom.

BANK OF ENGLAND
27th April 1984

THIS FORM MAY BE USED
TENDER FORM

This form must be lodged at the Bank of England, New Issues (AL WATLING STREET, LONDON, EC4M 9AA) NOT LATER THAN 10.00 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 2ND MAY 1984, OR AT ANY OF THE BRANCHES OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND OR AT THE CLERKS' OFFICE, 15, MARK LANE, LONDON, EC3R 7DF, NOT LATER THAN 3.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 1ST MAY 1984.

ISSUE OF £1,100,000,000
9½ per cent Treasury Convertible Stock, 1989
MINIMUM TENDER PRICE £95.50 PER CENT

TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND
I/we tender in accordance with the terms of the prospectus dated 27th April 1984 as follows:-

Amount of above-mentioned Stock tendered for, being a minimum of £100 and in a multiple as follows:-

Amount of Stock tendered for	Multiple
£100-£250	250
£250-£500	500
£500-£750	750
£750-£1,000	1,000
£1,000-£250,000	250,000 or greater

Amount of deposit enclosed, being £50.00 for every £100 of the nominal amount of Stock tendered for (shown in Box 1 above):-

I/we hereby agree to pay the balance of the purchase money when it becomes due on any allotment that may be made in respect of this tender, as provided by the said prospectus.

I/we request that any letter of allotment in respect of Stock allotted to me/us be sent by post at my/our risk to me/us at the address shown below:-

SIGNATURE
of, or on behalf of, tenderer

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS
MR/MRS/MISS FORNAMES IN FULL SURNAME

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS:-
POST-TOWN COUNTY POSTCODE

A separate cheque must accompany each tender. Cheques must be made payable to "The Bank of England, New Issues" and must be drawn on a bank, and be payable in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

Hongkong merger

The diversified Hongkong trading company Swire Pacific is to buy the 27.5 per cent of Swire Properties it does not already own, in a deal worth HK\$1.35 billion (£123m) that is seen as a vote of confidence in the business future of the colony.

It is the first sizable merger involving blue chip companies since February and is likely to give a fillip to a stock market in the doldrums.

Jardine, Matheson, the colony's oldest company, shook the business community with its announcement last month that it was to move its legal domicile to Bermuda due to uncertainty over the colony



**"1 1/4% EXTRA INTEREST
AT ONLY 28 DAYS NOTICE"**

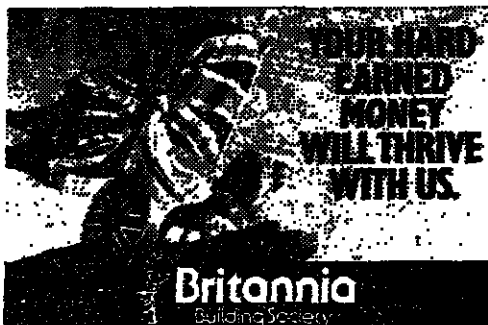
You won't find a much better deal in a month of Sundays.

A shrewd investor like yourself is sure to be turning the pages looking for the best return.
Feel free. We're confident that you won't find many national building societies offering more than 1 1/4% extra interest at only 28 days notice. Particularly, for a minimum investment of only £500.
And should you need instant access to your money, that's fine by us. All you forego is the equivalent of 28 days interest on the amount you withdraw.
Take advantage of this new investment opportunity.

Because when it comes to earning extra interest,
Sunday needn't be a day of rest.

750% NET	1071% GROSS
ANNUAL RETURN WITH HALF-YEARLY INTEREST ADDED	
764% NET	1091% GROSS
+Based on ordinary share rate of 6.25% (which may vary). Differentials also subject to variation. *Gross yield assumes 30% basic rate tax.	

Tick boxes as appropriate.
☐ I/We enclose cheque no. _____ value of _____
to open a Britannia 28 Days Notice Account (Minimum £500. Maximum £30,000. Joint Accounts £60,000).
Full Name(s) Mr/Mrs/Miss _____
Address _____
Signature(s) _____ Date _____
Post to: Britannia Building Society, FREEPOST, Newnham House, Leek, Staffs, ST13 5ND. T/3004



Britannia
Building Society

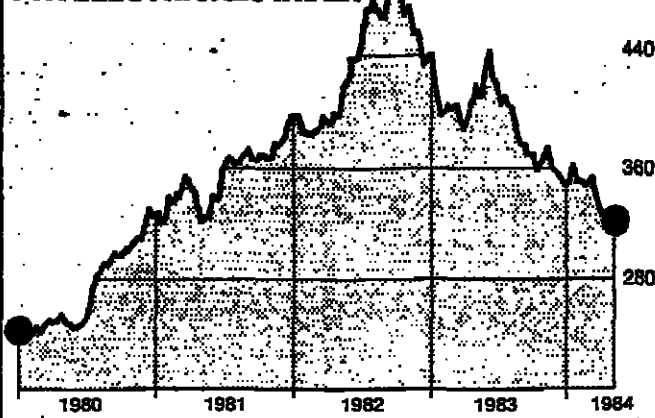
A MEMBER OF THE BUILDING SOCIETIES ASSOCIATION. AUTHORISED FOR INVESTMENT BY TRUSTEES. ASSETS NOW EXCEED £340 MILLION.

**NEW. From May 1st, accounts with £10,000 or more
qualify for a full 1 1/2% EXTRA over ordinary share rate.**

Good value in electronic second-liners

Bill Bracey

FTA ELECTRICALS INDEX



A portfolio of electrical shares, weighted by market capitalization in the same way as the FTA Electricals Index, would have been a disastrous investment over the past 18 months. As a measure of this, an alternative portfolio of shares widely spread across the whole equity market, has been worth 50 per cent more at the end of this period. How is it that a sector of the market which supposedly offers good long term growth can perform so badly at a time when British economy is showing a strong recovery?

The electrical and electronics industries (like other sectors of the economy), consist of a few very large companies and a very long "tail" of many small companies. Of the 40 or so companies researched by the Savory Millin "Electricals and Electronics" specialization, the five largest (GEC, Plessey, Racal, STC and Ferranti) account for 70 per cent of the total market capitalization. An index weighted by market capitalization is, therefore, dominated by these large companies and the share price

British Telecom may disrupt the cosy link with its suppliers

weakness of a few leaders can swamp the relative strength of the "tail". This has been the case in the electrical and electronic sector over the past 18 months.

The graph shows the 35 per cent relative drop in the electricals index from its peak in the third quarter of 1982. The share price movements of the five leaders over the same 18

months are illustrated in the table.

During the summer 1982 the electrical leaders were publishing results showing good earnings growth against a depressed general economic background. Sentiment towards the sector was favourable; in the aftermath of the Falklands crisis there was optimism on the rate of arms expenditure increase while early discussions on the privatization of British Telecom suggested that telecommunications spending would rise more quickly if the corporation had access to the capital markets.

Each of these factors has changed over the past 18 months. At the same time, as the general economy has been recovering, the aggregate earnings growth of electrical and electronics leaders has declined. Sentiment has deteriorated considerably. Not only was there no Falklands bonanza for

the defence contractors but also the Government efforts to effect economies in equipment procurement have been intensified.

British Telecom, too, is threatening to disrupt the old, cosy relationship with its suppliers by second-sourcing main exchange equipment from overseas. At the same time, as worries that institutions may take money out of the electrical and electronics sector to subscribe for British Telecom shares this autumn.

Although these general points go a certain way to explaining the recent weakness of the sector, the leading companies are far from being a homogeneous group. There have been specific problems which are of most relevance when answering the question "which, if any, of these shares should I be buying now?"

GEC will announce in early July its final results for the year which ended on March 31.

These will show broadly unchanged profits on a year earlier with weakness in the telecommunications and power generation divisions and a sharp drop in the return on cash combining to offset progress elsewhere.

Next year we would expect a resumption of profits growth but such as to distinguish GEC from the market as a whole.

Earnings growth in the immediate future will, therefore, be dull and we see no reason, either, why GEC should enjoy an above average price/earnings multiple. The company may well have a strategy for turning its large cash balances into future profits but, if so, it is not understood by the City. The investment in Distillers Company hardly sheds much light on the matter.

While we feel that GEC's downward re-rating to an average market multiple is now complete, we do not expect any sharp recovery. From here, the shares are expected to move in line with the equity market as a whole and this is clearly unexciting.

All Share Index	
GEC	-49
Plessey	-18
Racal	-50
STC	+20
Ferranti	-5

Racal also has a March 31 year end and, again, the results we are now awaiting will show little profits growth. Racal's main problem is its military radio division, held back by the fact that its export customers are strapped for cash. In the meantime Racal is embarked on the installation of its cellular radio system and this will depress profits in the short term. The success of cellular radio in the longer term will be a test of Racal's marketing ability. For the time being, though, we would consider a purchase of Racal shares to be speculative.

Although Plessey's recent earnings growth has disappointed nobody, its share rating has suffered on considerations of increasing competition in world telecommunications markets. There are some uncertainties, also, about the implications for main exchange profit margins as the System X programme gathers pace. While remaining happy with Plessey as a longer term investment, the share price is in neutral territory for the time being.

We believe that a similar assessment would be appropriate for both STC and Ferranti. STC's appointment as the sole supplier of TXE4 exchanges to British Telecom is important for the group's profit growth and cash generation over the next three to four years. This is counterbalanced, however, by worries about what happens beyond then, bearing in mind that STC has no System X involvement.

Ferranti's prospects continue to look good, particularly so far as its gate array business is concerned, but this is already discounted by a relatively high share price multiple.

There is, therefore, no strong case to be made for buying the electrical leaders at these levels, and we feel that there is much better value to be found in the "tail" of the sector.

Applied Computer Techniques, for example, has a management with a good track record in anticipating trends in the fast growing desk top computer market and the shares stand on a relatively undemanding multiple.

Bowthorpe also, has a very competent management and is steadily raising the higher technology content of its activities by acquisition.

CASE is still a relatively small company, constantly introducing new products into the data communications market and now embarked on US expansion.

Telephone Rentals is a leading beneficiary of deregulation in the market for subscriber equipment. The nature of a rental business is such that one gets high quality, rather than fast growing profits.

V.G. Instruments is still a cheap stock. Its core technology in ultra high vacuum products has been extended into new areas such as molecular beam epitaxy and the company's prospects as a supplier to chip manufacturers around the world are exciting.

Microlease makes its money from the short term hire of electronic test equipment. The increasing pervasiveness of electronics provides a good background for its activities and the shares look cheap.

Finally, we consider that the excitement in the electronic component distribution sub-sector is far from over and like both Diploma and Unitec.

The author is a partner in Savory Millin Electricals and Electronics Specialization.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	8 1/2%
Barclays	8 1/2%
BCCI	8 1/2%
Citibank	8 1/2%
Consolidated Credit	8 1/2%
Continental Trust	8 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co.	8 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	8 1/2%
Midland Bank	8 1/2%
Nat Westminster	8 1/2%
TSB	8 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's	8 1/2%

† Mortgage Base Rate.
* 7 day deposits on rates of under £10,000. 6% £10,000 and over. 5.5% £20,000 and over. 5% £25,000 and over. 4 1/2% £50,000 and over. 4% £100,000 and over.

NESTLÉ S.A.,

Cham and Vevey (Switzerland)

The shareholders are hereby convened to the
117TH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
to be held on Thursday, May 17, 1984 at 3.00 p.m.
at the "Palais de Beaulieu"
LAUSANNE (SWITZERLAND)

AGENDA

- Approval of the Accounts for 1983 and of the Annual Report.
- Release from responsibility of the Board of Directors and of the Management.
- Decision regarding the appropriation of the net profit.
- Elections in accordance with the Articles of Association.
- Amendment of Articles 5, par. 2; 6, par. 8; 7 and 27 of the Articles of Association.
- Basic for the creation of a participation-capital:
 - Statutory basis: introduction of a new Article 7 and amendment of Article 8 of the Articles of Association.
 - Authorization to the Board of Directors to issue participation certificates up to 10% of the share capital.
- Increases of share capital:
 - Increase of the share capital from presently Fr. 285 086 500.- to Fr. 288 340 800.- by the issue of 3 254 300 new bearer shares and of 91 548 new registered shares reserved for the shareholders.
 - Increase of the new share capital from Fr. 288 340 800.- to Fr. 300 000 000.- by the issue of 2 065 new bearer shares and of 4 497 new registered shares reserved for the "Fonds de Réserves Nestlé".
- Placing on record that all the new bearer shares and registered shares have been subscribed for and fully paid.
- Increase of the new share capital from Fr. 300 000 000.- to Fr. 330 000 000.- by the issue of 300 000 new registered shares in order to guarantee conversion or option rights resulting from debentures or bonds which might be issued later on and for other purposes which are in the interest of the Company according to the decision of the Board of Directors, the present shareholders waiving their subscription rights.
- Placing on record that all the new registered shares have been subscribed for and fully paid.
- Amendment of Article 5 of the Articles of Association.
- Registration in the "Registre du Commerce".

The owners of bearer shares may obtain their admission cards for the General Meeting (with a proxy) at the Company's Share Control Office at Cham up to Monday, May 14, 1984 at noon, at the latest. The cards will be delivered against the statement of a bank that the shares have been deposited with them or upon deposit of the shares at the offices of the Company where they will remain blocked until the day after the General Meeting.

The Nestlé Annual Report 1983 with the Directors' Report of Nestlé S.A. (including the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account) with comments, the Auditors' Report and the proposals for the appropriation of profits) as well as the Report of the Board of Directors concerning the amendments to the Articles of Association, the possibility of introducing participation certificates and the proposed share capital increases, are available to the holders of bearer shares as from May 2, 1984 at the Registered Offices at Cham and Vevey and at the Offices of the paying Agents of the Company.

The holders of registered shares whose names are entered in the Share Register will, within the next few days, receive at their latest address communicated to the Company, an envelope containing the Notice for the General Meeting, together with a form including an application for obtaining the admission card for such meeting as well as a proxy. On the other hand, the above-mentioned Reports will be dispatched a few days later.

As, according to the terms of Article 15 of the Articles of Association, the resolutions relating to point No 6 of the Agenda can only be validly taken by a General Meeting representing at least one half of the share capital, the shareholders are hereby informed that, in the absence of shareholders representing at least one half of the share capital at the first General Meeting, an

Extraordinary General Meeting

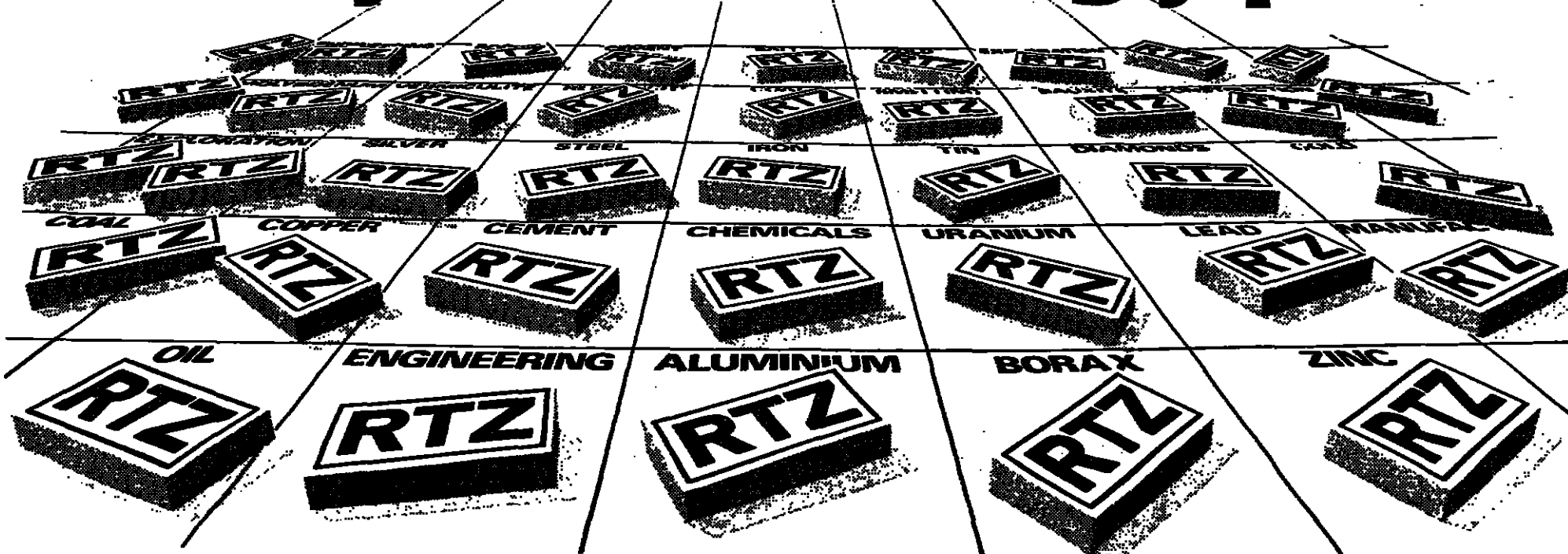
will be held on Thursday, May 17, 1984 at the "Palais de Beaulieu", Lausanne, immediately after the end of the Ordinary General Meeting, in order to decide on points 6.1 and 6.2 of the Agenda. In accordance with Article 15, paragraph 4 of the Articles of Association, decisions will be validly taken by an absolute majority of the votes cast without regard to the number of shares represented at this second General Meeting. The admission cards and the proxies for the Ordinary General Meeting shall be automatically valid for the Extraordinary General Meeting.

The shareholders are requested to address any correspondence concerning the General Meeting to the Share Control Office of the Company at Cham (Switzerland).

The Board of Directors

Cham and Vevey,
30th April 1984

RTZ '83 Broadly based, strongly placed



RTZ activities originally concentrated almost exclusively on mining and more recently have been broadened and diversified. Many of the Group's low-cost mines have by-products which contribute substantially to their overall profitability. Group companies now operate throughout the world in a wide spread of industries related to natural resources. These include metal processing and fabrication, engineering, the production and sale of chemicals and of construction materials and developing energy interests. Because of diversification and persistently weak base metal markets, the relative importance of RTZ's industrial interests in recent years has grown in relation to mining.

Results

Our results this year show a satisfactory increase over 1981 and 1982, two of the most difficult years the mining industry has had to face since before the war.

RTZ's profitability depends significantly on metal prices. In some cases prices were even lower in 1983 than in 1982, and so the improvement in our results is all the more welcome. It stems partly from our broad geographical and industrial spread, and partly from the rigorous attention to costs throughout the Group.

Group companies now produce significant percentages of the Western World's bauxite, copper, iron ore, lead, tin, uranium and zinc, and lesser quantities, mainly as by-products, of gold, molybdenum and silver. Our mines are, for the most part, low-cost producers and can therefore show reasonable profits even when other mines are working at a loss. This is especially true in the case of copper, with Palabora to the fore as one of the most efficient and low-cost producers in the world.

These mining activities are supplemented by a broadening industrial base, mainly in the UK and North America, in cement and other construction materials, in metal fabricating and light engineering and in borax and its derivatives. Our interests in oil and gas are also expanding, and we hope to see further growth in this area during the next few years.

Outlook

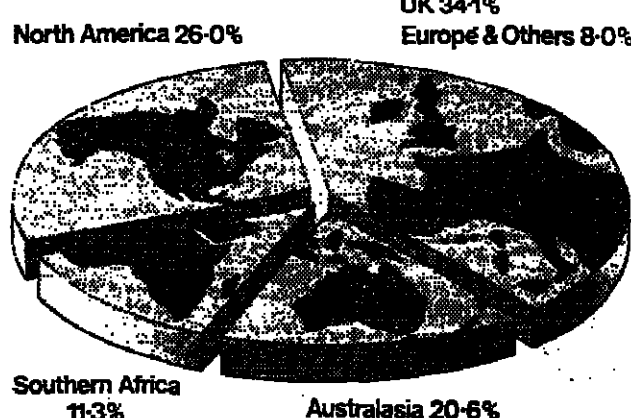
What of 1984? Forecasts of metal prices are notoriously difficult, but, provided the economies of the OECD countries continue on their present course, the increased level of activity will benefit most parts of the Group and, considering the difficult conditions still being faced by the mining industry, the current year should be satisfactory. It would, however, be prudent to sound a note of caution because of uncertainties about the year's exchange rates. The impact of exchange rate movements on our business is highly complex as the many currencies involved often move in different directions and sometimes metal prices move in the opposite direction to exchange rates. If the US dollar continues to weaken, our reported profits could be adversely affected.

Highlights from the Accounts

	1983	1982
Group sales revenue	£4,811.0m	£3,680.4m
Operating profit	623.5m	403.3m
Profit before tax	575.2m	341.0m
Profit after tax	296.3m	173.1m
Net attributable profit	172.5m	103.5m
Earnings per ord. share	59.31p	*38.44p
Dividends per ord. share		
Interim - paid	6.0p	5.5p
Final - proposed	12.0p	10.5p

* Adjusted for rights issue

Geographical source of profit by %



RTZ The Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation PLC

If you would like a copy of the RTZ annual report including Sir Anthony's full statement please write to: Central Registration Limited, 1 Redcliff Street, Bristol BS1 6NT

THE GILT-EDGED MARKET

The domestic reasons for an end to stability

Michael Hughes

Gilt prices are virtually unchanged on those of a year ago, in contrast to the equity market where gains of 25 per cent or more are commonplace. The relative stability of the gilt market has been particularly noticeable over the last few weeks. The FT government securities index has remained in a two-point spread for nearly 10 weeks. There are signs, however, that this stability is about to break.

Tempting though it may be to draw analogies with the response to the industrial disputes of 1974, the contrast is sufficiently great for this not to be a fruitful avenue for analysis. Suffice it to say that the miners' dispute contributes to a deterioration in sentiment which has its roots elsewhere. Our analysis focuses on three concerning developments in the wider economic scene. These are conveniently summarized by three statistics - the 10 per cent long-term interest rate barrier, the current 5 per cent inflation rate and the 80 level for sterling's trade-weighted exchange rate.

Despite a greater than generally expected reduction in inflation, gilt-edged yields have not convincingly broken through 10 per cent. Now the relationship between interest rates and inflation does not lend itself to simple explanations. In

'Acceleration of PSL 2 cannot be ignored'

particular, it does not appear to be consistent over time. The last two years have not been a period, for example, in which a rise in real interest rates, brought about by inflation falling by more than expected, has produced a reduction in real economic growth. In fact, quite the reverse has happened. The choice of 10 per cent is not arbitrary as de Zoete and Bevan's first contribution to this series back in January explained. There are now signs, however, that this barrier is strengthening. This belief dates back to the Budget.

Although hailed as a personal triumph for the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, it did not match up to the expectations of those who had been looking for a very tough anti-inflation line. In particular, the reductions in the desired PSBR trend and the associated monetary base targets fell short of the conditions necessary to ensure inflation stays below 5 per cent. The Budget emphasis was on tax reform, not monetary string-

ency. The implications of this change took time to digest. In contrast to previous years, second thoughts on the Budget were not formulated two, three or even four days after but rather two, three and four weeks.

The conclusion that fiscalism had replaced monetarism as the prime policy focus has contributed to a feeling that the response to any monetary excesses will be slower to come through than they did in the first term of office. The consequence is that the average inflation rate is expected to be higher than would otherwise have been the case.

Subsequent to the Budget came the money supply figures for March, which suggested that money demand was accelerating. The treatment of these figures by the financial press was remarkably uncritical. Little attention was paid to the explosive growth in M1 or the continuing acceleration of PSL2. Both are now discarded as targeted variables but that does not diminish their importance for economic analysis. Some may even argue that it enhances it!

But whereas the March M1 evidence may be set aside as a temporary deviation of an increasingly unreliable series, the PSL2 acceleration over recent months cannot be ignored.

A reasonable case had been made for substituting M1 with more meaningful measures of narrow money. No such case was made in the Budget or subsequently for dropping PSL2. Its acceptance by the gilt-edged market as a reasonable measure of broad money is undimmed.

Despite its lower profile in the newly-designed Medium Term Financial Strategy, the attention devoted to PSL2 may well rise over the coming months as it continues to

accelerate. The reason for this lies with the response by building societies to the February 23 decision to tax their gilt profits at the full corporation tax rate.

The effect of this has been to encourage building societies to aim for a lower liquidity ratio than at present, with the result that the supply of mortgages should increase over the immediate future, thereby boosting PSL2 growth.

The slope of the interest rate yield curves - perhaps the most accurate measure of the stance of monetary policy - also warns that money demand is set to accelerate. The recent and prospective monetary evidence therefore provides a constraint on any further relaxation of monetary policy, a point which will make the now well-established 10 per cent yield barrier seem even more difficult to penetrate.

The second vital statistic for the market is the 5 per cent inflation rate. This was the objective of the first Medium Term Financial Strategy. Measured by the RPI, inflation has hovered around 5 per cent for the last nine months and seems likely to stay around this rate in the immediate future. Consequently, it is not surprising that many now argue that deviations from a 5 per cent rate will trigger a policy response. Since the consensus forecasts look for a modest acceleration in inflation over the coming year, it follows that a monetary policy tightening has started to be discounted.

Finally, sterling has recently edged below 80 on its trade-weighted index. The choice of 80 is not especially important. A range of 78-82 could make the point more adequately. There is after all no official target for the exchange rate so no one level is all-important.

In contrast to the fiscal year 1981-82, when a range of 88-92

became established as the acceptable band, no such limits can now be identified. And yet the steady correction to sterling's overvaluation of three years ago brings us nearly to the current trading range.

Now, however, sterling is no longer overvalued. In fact, according to the London Business School's latest assessment of price competitiveness, sterling is slightly undervalued. Moreover, non-price factors do not still seem to be making sterling goods unattractive.

One of the remarkable features of recent years is that despite sterling's well publicized overvaluation in price terms, our share of world markets was far higher than the econometric models predicted. There appears to have been a break with past trends indicative of some non-price-related (perhaps supply side?) improvement.

Sterling is, therefore, fairly valued. If anything, it might be slightly cheap. In the absence of any external shocks, a sustained devaluation of sterling from around current levels would therefore provide a warning that some other aspect of the domestic scene was deteriorating.

The most likely candidate is domestic monetary policy. If this has been overvalued at a time when sterling goods and

A sustained devaluation would be a warning

services are fairly priced on world markets, the consequent devaluation of the exchange rate would jeopardize not only the inflation objectives but also the stability of the gilt-edged market. For it would begin to discount some corrective action. The gilt market can therefore be expected to view any further falls in the trade-weighted rate with concern.

Three reasons then for the recent stability of the gilt-edged market to end: three essentially domestic reasons. No reference has been made to the deteriorating US picture. This is not to say that the impact this has on the domestic market is minimal, even though it may have been less than in the past. Rather, it highlights the fact that when the domestic picture is also deteriorating, our immunity to external "shocks" diminishes.

The author is a partner and chief economist of stockbrokers de Zoete and Bevan.

A bear market will test Plan Invest

Michael Clark

Not to be outdone by the FT Index, the Unlisted Securities Market index, as measured by Datastream, was again scaling new heights last week proving to the sceptics that the USM has more than fulfilled the task it was designed for.

Each day the market grows larger and the queue of new companies hoping to join shows few signs of trailing off. All of a sudden every businessman, and his dog, is aware of the opportunities available once a quote is secured. So the spread of companies now quoted on the USM has become wide and diverse. Interests range from extracting protein from waste products to high-stepping dance studios.

Last week one of the most bizarre offerings yet was placed in front of investors. Plan Invest Group claims to be one of Britain's largest independent unit trust portfolio advisers, handling funds of around £25m. The broker Robert Wigram is placing 878,000 shares, around 49 per cent of issued capital, with clients at 62½p a share. It capitalizes the entire group at a mere £1,375m, making it one of the smallest companies quoted on the USM.

Operating with a team of only 13, Plan Invest has few assets and relies heavily on the ability of its expert advisers. The group specializes in unit trusts but has no fund of its own and merely advises amateur and professional investors alike on where to invest their money - a service that every self-respecting firm of stockbrokers should have no difficulty in offering.

Both London and Tokyo are currently in the midst of a strong bull market, so the opportunity for lucrative investments remains high. The real test for Plan Invest will come during the next bear market, especially in the field of unit trusts where specialist situations are common.

Plan Invest has other strings to its bow, including a 49 per cent stake in HCPI, a company supplying financial planning services to professional investors. HCPI's largest shareholder is the Manchester stockbroker firm of Henry Cooke, Lumsden. It also provides a comprehensive service on personal money investments.

Part of the sale proceeds will be used to launch "a new product" in the unit trust field. Over the past five years pretax profits have grown from £37,000 to £155,000, but the

group has declined to make a forecast for the current year and merely states "the directors view prospects with confidence".

The thinness of the market should ensure the shares open at a premium in first-time dealings later today will close observers looking for around 90p, but the subsequent performance of the price may depend heavily on the fortunes of the market.

The merger of William Morris, an old-established firm specializing in metal sculptures, with Peterlee, the wallpaper specialists, may seem an odd marriage at first glance, but has more going for it than meets the eye.

William Morris has designed and sculptured many of London's most famous landmarks, including the figure of Justice on top of the Old Bailey, the

The USM shares table is on page 18

mermaid fountains in Trafalgar and the sculptures of one of London's Zoo's most famous inmates - Cilly the gorilla.

However, the biggest side of the group's business is in wallpaper, which last year accounted for 70 per cent of sales. Peterlee now controls a large slice of the washable wallpaper market and hopes to use the proceeds from its flotation, amounting to £500,000, to expand still further.

Peterlee was bought by William Morris last month following the issue of 1,300,000 shares at 10p and last year made pretax profits of £335,000 on sales of £2.53m. This compares with the £148,000 William Morris made during the same period.

William Morris is joining the USM via a reverse takeover of Ceylon and Indian Planter's Holdings, which is currently quoted under Rule 163. The broker Le Mare, Martin is placing 5 million shares, 12 per cent of the equity, at 10p per share following the pattern now firmly established by Le Mare in all of its half-dozen or so USM placings. At this level the group is valued at £4m.

Peterlee hopes it can harness the design expertise of William Morris, built up over the past

130 years, to increase its shares of the washable wallpaper market, while the demand for Singer cast sculptures will only add icing to the cake.

Le Mare Martin is no newcomer to the USM and its practice of offering shares at par level has proved highly successful in the past. There is no reason to think this will not be the case with William Morris. Dealing start later today.

By way of a change, ET Sutherland, the chilled and canned meats company, is coming to the USM by way of an offer for sale. The broker Scrimgeour Kemp Gee is offering 3,250,000 shares (25 per cent) at 95p, valuing the group at £24.24m. Of the shares being offered, one million are made up of equity from which the group hopes to raise an extra £725,000.

Sutherland is an old-established family business concentrating on the fast-growing chilled meats market in the north and last year saw pretax profits up by nearly 20 per cent, to £1.6m on sales of £20.3m. Sutherland hopes to expand further south with the proceeds from the sale and should open at a healthy premium on Friday week.

PHILIPS FINANCE public limited company

NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF 50 PER CENT STERLING/GUILDER CONVERTIBLE GUARANTEED LOAN STOCK 1981/1994

ADJUSTMENT OF CONVERSION RATE

At the Annual General Meeting of N.V. Gomeenschapelijk Beest van Aandeelen Philips Gloeilampenfabrieken ("Philips N.V."), the ultimate holding company of Philips Finance public limited company ("the Company"), held on 26th April 1984 at Eindhoven, a resolution was passed approving a distribution to Ordinary Shareholders in Ordinary Shares, at the rate of one share of 10 pence Ordinary Shares of 10 pence, paid up by way of capitalisation of part of the amount standing to the credit of share premium account.

As a result, pursuant to the provisions of the Trust Deed constituting the 50 per cent Sterling/Guilder Convertible Guaranteed Loan Stock 1981/1994 of the Company, the conversion price for the Stock has been reduced with effect from and including 27th April 1984 from 55 20 pence to 50 10 pence and the conversion rate has been adjusted accordingly. The new conversion rate is 8 656 Ordinary Shares (previously 7 889 Ordinary Shares) of 10 nominal of Philips N.V. for every £50 nominal of Stock. However, the procedure for conversion may, and under current circumstances will, involve a cash payment due to changes in the official rate of exchange between the pound sterling and the Netherlands guilder from the rate fixed under the terms of issue of the Stock. Full details of the procedure to be followed on conversion are set out in a letter sent to all Stockholders on 19th April 1984, copies of which may be obtained from the Company's Registrars.

BARING BROTHERS & CO LIMITED
Registrars,
8, Bishopsgate,
London EC2N 4AE

SWIRE PACIFIC LIMITED AND SWIRE PROPERTIES LIMITED OF HONG KONG

PROPOSALS FOR SWIRE PACIFIC LIMITED TO ACQUIRE THE MINORITY INTERESTS IN SWIRE PROPERTIES LIMITED

1. Swire Pacific Limited ("Swire Pacific") and Swire Properties Limited ("Swire Properties") announce that terms have been agreed by the Boards of the two companies on proposals whereby, subject, inter alia, to the approval of shareholders, Swire Properties would become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Swire Pacific.

2. Swire Pacific presently owns beneficially 443,697,822 ordinary shares of HK\$1 each in Swire Properties representing 72.495% of the issued share capital; other shareholders own 168,338,720 ordinary shares (the "Minority Shares") representing 27.505% of the issued share capital.

3. The proposals will be implemented by a Scheme of Arrangement under Section 166 of the Companies Ordinance whereby, in place of their existing holdings, the holders of the Minority Shares will be entitled to receive:

FOR EVERY 500 SHARES IN SWIRE PROPERTIES 130 NEW SWIRE PACIFIC 'A' SHARES PLUS HK\$1,610 IN CASH and so on in proportion for greater or lesser holdings, but ignoring fractional entitlements to new Swire Pacific 'A' shares. At the closing prices on the Far East Exchange Limited on 27th April 1984 of HK\$18.40 per Swire Pacific 'A' share and HK\$6.60 per Swire Properties ordinary share, the proposals value each Swire Properties ordinary share at slightly over HK\$8.00, a premium of 21.3% above its closing price.

4. Shareholders in Swire Properties will be entitled to receive and retain the final dividend of HK\$0.32 per ordinary share in respect of the year ended 31st December 1983 which was announced on 16th March 1984 and is proposed to be paid on 18th May 1984. The new Swire Pacific 'A' shares will rank pari passu in all respects with the existing Swire Pacific 'A' shares except that they will not rank for the final dividend of HK\$0.73 per 'A' share in respect of the year ended 31st December 1983 which was announced on 26th March 1984 and is proposed to be paid on 8th June 1984.

5. The directors of Swire Properties have appointed Hambro Pacific Limited ("Hambros") as its financial advisers and with regard to the interests of the holders of the Minority Shares and the directors of Swire Pacific have appointed Wardley Limited ("Wardley") as its financial advisers. In the discussions on terms, those directors of Swire Properties who are also directors of Swire Pacific have not participated on behalf of Swire Properties. All the directors of Swire Properties and Hambros consider the proposals to be fair and reasonable and recommend them to the holders of the Minority Shares. All the directors of Swire Pacific and Wardley consider the proposals to be fair and reasonable and recommend them to the shareholders of Swire Pacific. All the directors of Swire Pacific and of Swire Properties will vote in favour of the proposals in respect of their own beneficial holdings of shares in Swire Properties and in Swire Pacific.

6. The directors of Swire Pacific do not intend to make any changes in the overall policy with regard to the Swire Pacific Group's property activities whereby Swire Properties will continue as the holding company for the Swire Pacific Group's property interests. The Board of Swire Pacific intends to continue the development of the business of Swire Properties so as to take advantage of property investment and development opportunities in Hong Kong and elsewhere and considers that their development and financing will be enhanced and facilitated if Swire Properties were to become wholly-owned by Swire Pacific, with consequential benefits to the Swire Pacific Group as a whole in the medium and long term. The terms and conditions of employment of the staff of the Swire Properties Group will not be adversely affected by the implementation of the proposals.

7. A Scheme document will be posted to shareholders of Swire Properties as soon as practicable; this document will contain details of the proposals, forecasts of the profits of Swire Properties and of Swire Pacific for the year ending 31st December 1984, valuations of the Swire

Properties Group's properties, and other important information which shareholders are advised to consider carefully; at the same time, a copy of the Scheme document, together with a separate explanatory circular, will be sent to the shareholders of Swire Pacific.

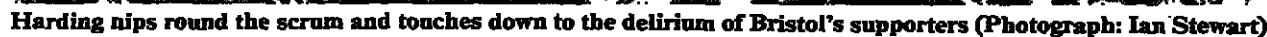
8. In the situation where Swire Pacific already owns 72.495% of Swire Properties the directors of both companies wished to ensure that the proposals would provide an equitable balance as between the interests of the shareholders of both companies. This is of particular importance because the holders of the Minority Shares in Swire Properties are being offered the opportunity to become shareholders in Swire Pacific and effectively to participate not only in the property activities of the Swire Pacific Group but also in all its other activities in the fields of aviation, shipping, trading and industry.

9. The terms of the proposals will not be revised and will be conditional upon:

- (1) Approval by the holders of the Minority Shares at a meeting of such shareholders to be convened at the direction of the Supreme Court.
- (2) The passing at an extraordinary general meeting of Swire Properties of the resolutions necessary to implement the proposals.
- (3) The passing at an extraordinary general meeting of Swire Pacific of the resolutions necessary to implement the proposals.
- (4) The sanction of the Supreme Court.

If the Scheme of Arrangement becomes effective after approval by the requisite majorities, it will become binding on all the holders of the Minority Shares; if approval is not obtained, the proposals will lapse in their entirety.

10. The Hong Kong stock exchanges have been requested to grant a temporary suspension of trading in Swire Pacific 'A' and 'B' shares and in Swire Properties shares from the opening of business on Monday, 30th April 1984.



By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

Barnes will take some consolation, but it was not his fault that Bristol lost. It was because the Bath forwards played out of their skins - on such a baking day they must have wished they

Had Bath taken all their scoring chances in the first half, the period when they came to believe they might win, then we might have seen some running rugby. But Palmer missed four

In a game lost by only a point, would the presence of the injured Hesford have provided that essential extra? Rafter and Polledri must have had the inexperience of Chidgey lurking in the corners of their minds; there were no No 8 pick-ups, no moves developing round the

BATH: D. Bartlett, D. Trick, J. Palmer, A. Rees, B. Travassoli, J. Horton, R. Hill, G. Chilcott, A. Cunningham, R. Lee, R. Spurrell (capt), N. Gaymond, N. Redman, J. Hall, P. Simpson.

BRISTOL: P. Cue; A. Morley, R. Knibbs, S. Hogg, J. Cairr, S. Barnes, R. Harding; R. Doubleday, D. Palmer, A. Sheppard, P. Polledri, N. Pomphrey, P. Stiff, M. Rafter (capt), D. Chidgey.

Referee: R. Quintenton (London).

I suppose it was not really a good match, but it lifted at least partisan spirits. When the special train arrived back at Bath - well, I was going to say the rafters rang, but in the circumstances it would be an inappropriate analogy. The continuing, triumphant, thundering cheers must have been heard all over the city.

Neath knew they could not match Cardiff in the quality of their players - they have only one international compared with Cardiff's nine - but that they could bring to the fray an abundance of energy, enthusiasm and superb fitness. Their total and

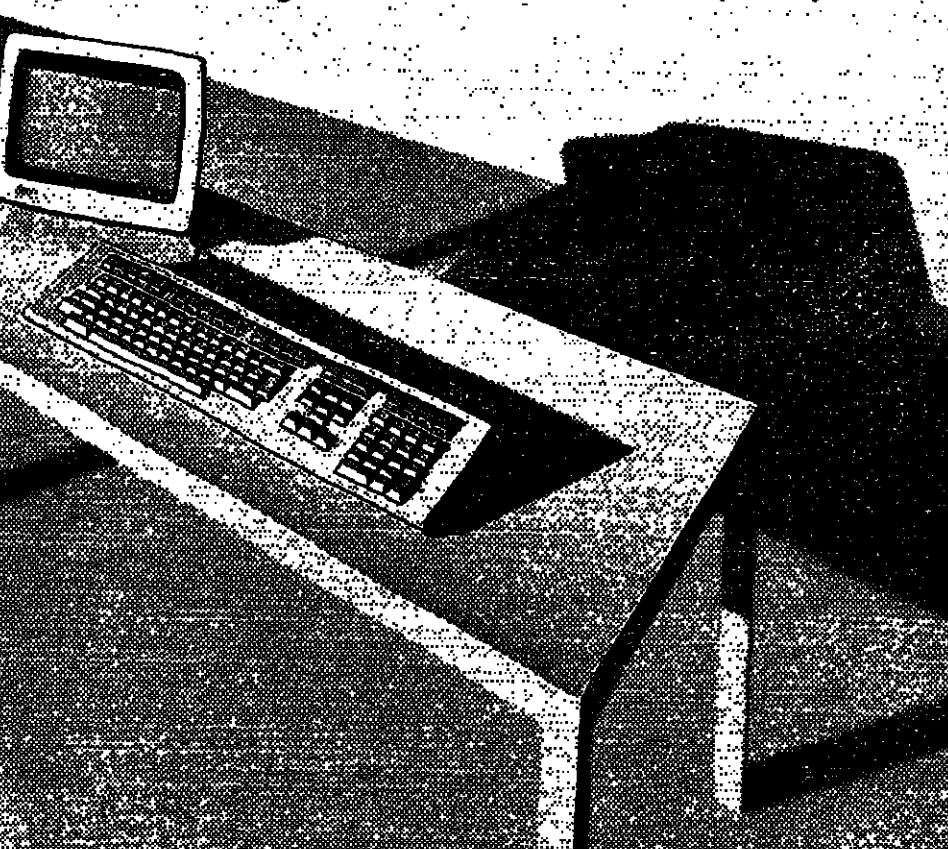
Wasps: J. Sullivan (*Harlequins*); A. Ribombachi (*Harlequins*); W. Jefferson (*Harlequins*); M. Williams (*Wasps*); A. Woodhouse (*Harlequins*); P. Curtis (Rosham Park); A. Skimmons (*Wasps*); A. Ischell (*Wasps*); K. Moss (*Wasps*); C. Pinner (*Wasps*); J. James (*Wasps*); D. Cook (*Harlequins*, capt.); E. Weekes (*Harlequins*).
PARIS: B. Chareyre (rep., x Ottmann); M. Fanel, P. Mediannolle, P. Igoud, A. Mouriquet, C. Haget (capt.), J. Pelet, P. Duchastelle, M. Marandou, P. Couchoux, L. Maybel, E. Bourgeois, J. Chelly, P. Courvisser, C. Tardy (rep., E. Seillard).
Referees: A. Tngg (London).

(at Tinternham)			
Welsh Cup Final			
Cardiff	24	19	
Club Matches			
Barnard	19	Coverly	23
Bilford	20	Donnells	20
Brigsteat	10	Tewitair	21
Cambarne	82	Stafford	12
Craven	10	Wesley	19
Emmoch	45	Wellington	19
Exmouth	10	Wentworth	19
Gloucester	58	Exeter	9
Gorforth	25	Rushley	9
Grimsby	28	Stafford	19
Headingley	6	Peter	28
Ilkley	10	Stafford	21
Morley	25	Warfield	19
Northampton	15	Palgrave	21
Northfleet	41	Pool	19
Orwell	9	Stafford	22
Osney	10	Roughley	19
Peterborough	10	Stafford	21
Pontefract/Newton	11	Tredgare	21
Rushley	17	Edin	19
S. Thomas	6	Northridge	17
S. Austell	6	Dorchester	7
Stafford	10	Wentworth	15
Waterloo	16	Torquay	13
Whitby	6	Pontypool	37
Widnespool	2		

[illegible]

Wasps: J. Sullivan (*Harlequins*); A. Ribombachi (*Harlequins*); W. Jefferson (*Harlequins*); M. Williams (*Wasps*); A. Woodhouse (*Harlequins*); P. Curtis (Rosham Park); A. Skimmons (*Wasps*); A. Ischell (*Wasps*); K. Moss (*Wasps*); C. Pinner (*Wasps*); J. James (*Wasps*); D. Cook (*Harlequins*, capt.); E. Weekes (*Harlequins*).
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Referees: A. Tngg (London).

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FOOTBALL: TWO SECOND DIVISION PROMOTION PLACES CLAIMED, BUT THE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP IS UNRESOLVED

Chelsea complete their irresistible rise to the highest class as crowd lowers itself

By Stuart Jones
Football CorrespondentChelsea United.....5
Leeds United.....0

Chelsea showed their two faces in the sunshine of Saturday afternoon. One, to be seen on the pitch, is youthful and attractive. The other, to be seen off it, is old and ugly. The first division was a richer place for their players and the poorer for some of their followers.

Leeds United, facing a blue tidal wave that swept across the length and breadth of Stamford Bridge, were overwhelmed. Within an hour Thomas had claimed the opening goal, Dixon another three, Burnstead had hit the same post twice and Sparkman had misfired from a yard. Chelsea's irresistible ride towards promotion was complete.

Their attack will cut through more than a few tighter rearguards next season. In Nevill they have a small Scottish winger of utmost trickery. His dribble to set up the second goal, full of breaks and acceleration, was the highlight of the day. In Thomas they have a rejuvenated Welshman of ceaseless activity.

Speedie is aptly named and Dixon, his taller and less mobile partner, illustrated three different scoring qualities - heading power, delicacy with the right foot and accuracy with the left - to take his personal total to 32.

When Canoville came on to add the fifth with a powerful individual run, their collective total became 85, the highest of the League.

Yet the statistics of Chelsea's defence, though threatened here merely by several long range attempts by Lorimer, suggest that they will need strengthening before next August. They have five fewer goals than Middlesbrough, who are not yet clear of relegation. Their full backs, in particular, might be vulnerable in a higher class.

Chelsea may also be forced to spend money on fences around their ground. The pitch invasions, sporadic even before the kick off, grew to be so threatening that the referee, stunned momentarily after being knocked over during the celebrations that followed the final goal, ended the game prematurely to safeguard the players as well as himself.

The ensuing scenes, spread over three-quarters of an hour, rivalled anything seen on the Continent for violence that was sickening and potentially lethal. As the huge majority of Chelsea's supporters gathered to sing their team's praises in front of the directors box, others were interested only in antagonising their visitors from the north, mercifully surrounded by high railings. The police, struggled to contain the louts, were caught by the various missiles subsequently thrown in both directions.

When their patience was broken by the action of one particularly senseless Leeds idiot, who felt prompted to thrust a wooden plank repeatedly into the electronic scoreboard, riot shields and a dozen mounted policemen were used.

before battle ceased. One policeman, struck in the throat by a brick, fell unconscious and had to be revived by the kiss of life. Another, holding a bloody bandage to his face, was carried away on a stretcher. Poignantly, the last person to leave the pitch departed supine in the back of an ambulance.

Although Ken Bates, Chelsea's chairman, described his club's supporters as "just excited and boisterous," clubs would be advised to follow his proposal and invest in cameras aimed at the crowd to catch misbehaving supporters on film.

A season's coverage would cost some £25,000, a small price to pay for safety. Otherwise there must be genuine fears that next season's first division London derbies, in particular, will be similarly scarred. North London's Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United feel complacent about the prospect of meeting Chelsea. Chelsea: A. Nwankwo, C. Lee, J. Jones, C. Pate, J. McLaughlin, J. Burnstead (sub P. Canoville), P. Nevill, N. Speedie, M. Dixon, S. Speedie, M. Thomas.

LEEDS: D. Harvey, D. Irwin, G. Hargreaves, W. Aspin, J. Dickson, T. Wright, S. Selinger, G. McCuskey, A. Ritchie, P. Lorimer, M. Gavins. Referee: G. Nephine (Loughborough).



A hat-trick from Chelsea's Kerry Dixon (top right), a vain appeal to rioting supporters from Ken Bates (above)

Ipswich need have no fears about Manchester visit

By Vince Wright

Ipswich.....2
Ipswich.....2

Ipswich Town have the will as well as the skill to stay in the first division. At Anfield on Saturday Bobby Ferguson's youngsters deserved their draw with the European Cup finalists in a stirring struggle in the spring sunshine. Of the clubs threatened by relegation, Ipswich probably have the most testing end to the season; but after giving as good as they got against Liverpool, a visit to Old Trafford next Monday should hold no fears.

There followed a purple patch by Liverpool which led to Rush equalling Roger Hunt's club record of 42 goals in a season. This was a cruel blow to the hopes of the finishing touch at the top post after Work had fooled his former colleagues by dummying Lee's cross.

Powerful, accurate shooting had been a feature of the afternoon's play and the Ipswich equalizer by Gates after 57 minutes was another reminder of it. Sunderland's D'Avray cleverly created the chance and Gates' instant volley was always curving away from Gribble.

Liverpool made their familiar late surge but Ipswich, inspired by Osmond's resolute defending, pluckily resisted. If Ipswich are unlucky enough to go down, the first division will be poorer for it. Ipswich: B. Ferguson, S. Neal, A. Kennedy, M. Lawrence, S. Nicol, P. Whitham, K. Dalglish, S. Lee, J. Rush, J. Work, C. Johnston.

IPSWICH TOWN: P. Cooper, F. Yallop, S. McCall, A. Hansen, R. Bannister, P. Pinner, M. Brennan, M. D'Avray, A. Sunderland. Referee: T. Mills (Barnley).

Sunderland had gone close with a

Manchester United.....0
West Ham United.....0

Like two well-trod chaps at the door of their club, Liverpool and Manchester United keep saying to each other: "After you, old boy." "No, no, after you." The run-in to the championship has seen both clubs determinedly rejecting the invitation to take a decisive lead. First both lost on the same day, then they both drew. Then they both won. Now they have both drawn again. And the gap remains a mere two points.

I have no idea how United failed to score on Saturday. Perhaps they are just not good enough. They may even have lost. West Ham played with a thrilling one-nine-one formation, players shoulder to shoulder in the goalmouth, but Corrie, mostly a lone forward, was in a bit of a lull. He was not a chance in the second minute, and a couple of other opportunities to steal the match did not work out.

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diving header before Ipswich went ahead in the nineteenth minute.

Lawson was penalized for obstruction and when Brennan capped the free kick sideways Gates fired crisply home. Liverpool's equalizer on the half-hour was practically the first thing that they had done right. Neal's centre was only half-cleared and his full-back partner, Kennedy, Liverpool's outstanding player, stepped up to bullet the ball past Cooper from 25 yards.

There followed a purple patch by Liverpool which led to Rush equalling Roger Hunt's club record of 42 goals in a season. This was a cruel blow to the hopes of the finishing touch at the top post after Work had fooled his former colleagues by dummying Lee's cross.

Powerful, accurate shooting had been a feature of the afternoon's play and the Ipswich equalizer by Gates after 57 minutes was another reminder of it. Sunderland's D'Avray cleverly created the chance and Gates' instant volley was always curving away from Gribble.

Liverpool made their familiar late surge but Ipswich, inspired by Osmond's resolute defending, pluckily resisted. If Ipswich are unlucky enough to go down, the first division will be poorer for it. Ipswich: B. Ferguson, S. Neal, A. Kennedy, M. Lawrence, S. Nicol, P. Whitham, K. Dalglish, S. Lee, J. Rush, J. Work, C. Johnston.

IPSWICH TOWN: P. Cooper, F. Yallop, S. McCall, A. Hansen, R. Bannister, P. Pinner, M. Brennan, M. D'Avray, A. Sunderland. Referee: T. Mills (Barnley).

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University Appointments

THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
Director of Commercial and Industrial Development
(Minimum £17,275 p.a.)

Applications are invited for the above post which falls vacant on 1 June 1984 with the return of the present holder to a senior post overseas. The Director of Commercial and Industrial Development Bureau spearheads the University's exploitation of ideas, inventions and commercial products for the benefit of British industry. Applicants should have had wide marketing experience in industry and commerce and should possess a high level of entrepreneurial and management skills.

Salary will be within the Professorial range, minimum £17,275. Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar and Secretary (Staffing), The University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TN, to whom applications (one copy), stating two referees, should be sent not later than 14 May 1984. Quote Ref. R72/A.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL
Applications are invited for the post of
Secretary to the Royal College of Psychiatrists

whose national headquarters are at 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1. The Secretary is the prime administrator and has responsibility for all administrative matters of the College. The successful applicant would work closely with the Honorary Officers. Experience in the public sector is essential. It is expected that the Secretary should develop a thorough knowledge of the financial affairs of the College and should therefore be suitably qualified (eg. by experience) to collaborate with the Honorary Treasurer and the Finance Officer. A knowledge of computers would be valuable.

The salary will be in the range of £17,000 - £21,000 plus London weighting according to age and experience.

Four copies of applications, including C.V. and the names and addresses of three referees, should be sent by 23 May 1984 to The Registrar, Professor R. G. Priest, at The Academic Department of Psychiatry, St. Mary's Hospital, London W2 1NY, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL HAMBURG GERMANY
Requires for late August '84 teacher of:
HISTORY, experienced teaching IB, C-level, gds. 7-12.
MATHEMATICS, experienced gds. 7-12 to IB, AP or A-level; computer experience required.
ENGLISH, gds. 6-12, IB at all levels, preferably ESL training and experience.
GERMAN/FRENCH, part-time experienced for Beginners to IB German Lang. (A native speaker) and B; post is maternity leave replacement, Sept.-Dec. '84, possible extension to June '85.

IB Theory of knowledge experience an asset for first three posts.

Applications to Peter Hestmann, INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL HAMBURG, Holtenauer Str. 20, 20090 Hamburg 22, West Germany by May 9, 1984.

BRUNEL UNIVERSITY
LECTURESIPS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY

We have vacancies for graduates interested in the following areas of teaching and research:

- (a) Industrial Automation
- (b) Quality and Reliability Engineering
- (c) Manufacturing Systems

Applicants should have a good honours degree, meaningful industrial training and the capacity to develop quickly within high technology.

The salary will be on the university lecturer scale, currently at £8,370-£10,511 with London Allowance, and USS benefits.

For further details please contact the Personnel Secretary, Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 3PH, or telephone 0296 37188, ext. 49. Closing date: 31 May 1984.

KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON
(University of London)
QUEEN ELIZABETH COLLEGE CHELSEA COLLEGE
TEMPORARY LECTURESHIP IN ENGLISH

Applications are invited for the above post, for appointment from October 1984 for one year. The post is open to candidates with a special interest in 19th century literature.

Salary on the scale £7,190 to £14,125 per annum plus £1,186 per annum London Allowance.

Application forms and further particulars are available from Mr. S. P. Harcourt, Director of Studies, King's College, London W8 7AH, or Mr. J. H. Harcourt, Director of Studies, Chelsea College, London SW3 3LH. Applications should be submitted in duplicate with the names of two referees as soon as possible, and not later than 21 May 1984.

THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST
Chair of Management/Directorship of the School of Management and Finance

The Senate of the University invites applications for the Chair of Management/Directorship of the School of Management and Finance, to be held from 1 October 1984, or such other date as may be arranged. The successful candidate will be expected to carry out research in the field of management, to contribute to the teaching programme of the School, and to undertake other duties of a senior academic nature.

Applicants should have a high level of experience in management, and a strong commitment to research and teaching. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the development of the School, and to undertake other duties of a senior academic nature.

Salary £15,416 per annum with contributory pension rights under the University scheme.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, The Queen's University of Belfast, BT7 1NN, Northern Ireland. Closing date: 31 May 1984. Please quote Ref. 84/73.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Applications are invited for a LECTURESHIP

in the above Department, from 1 October 1984. General philosophical interests and special interest in logic and the philosophy of science are an advantage. Initial salary in the range of £7,190 - £14,125 per annum, depending on experience.

Particulars from the Registrar and Secretary (Staffing), The University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TN, to whom applications (one copy), stating two referees, should be sent by 25 May 1984. Please quote Ref. R77/A.

CHAIR OF CHEMISTRY
Applications are invited for a Chair of Chemistry for appointment from 1 October 1984 or as soon as possible thereafter. It is intended that the appointment should be that of an organic or physical chemist and preference will be given to applicants with research interests in inorganic synthesis, organic material science or spectroscopy.

Salary not less than £17,275 per annum in the national professorial range (under review).

Applications (14 copies), including a curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees, should reach the Registrar and Secretary (Staffing), The University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TN, by 25 May 1984. Please quote Ref. R77/A.

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
APPLIED MATHEMATICS
RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Applications are invited for the above post for appointment commencing 1 October 1984 at an initial salary in the range £7,190 to £14,125 per annum, plus London Allowance and USS benefits.

The post is funded by an SERC Research Grant and will involve the successful candidate in the study of the quantum theory of the interaction of light with matter. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the teaching programme of the School, and to undertake other duties of a senior academic nature.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar and Secretary (Staffing), The University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TN, to whom applications (one copy), stating two referees, should be sent by 25 May 1984. Please quote Ref. R77/A.

HORIZONS
The Times guide to career choice
Designing for your future

Iris Rosier spots an area in which employment opportunities are being promoted and some consultancies booming

The Government, the Open University, the Duke of Edinburgh and the godfathers sound an incongruous group. In fact, they are all actively involved in promoting the cause of good design and indirectly helping young designers trying to find employment.

The godfathers are members of the Society of Industrial Artists and Designers, committed to helping recently qualified designers improve their portfolios and so gain either staff jobs or commissions for their work. Last year the society persuaded more than 400 established designers throughout Britain to team up with young designers in their own design schemes. In the South-East, designers have held portfolio "surgeries" so that young hopefuls could learn how to make their work more saleable. At a time when the bigger design companies say that they receive up to a thousand applications a year without advertising, any positive measure is to be welcomed.

On May 1 the Duke of Edinburgh makes his selection of outstanding design achievements. Last year his choices ranged from a helicopter to a plastic clip. It is good to see designers

More than just changing a machine's shape

as well as actors and him stars receiving royal acclaim.

The Open University researchers and the Department of Industry are convinced that well-designed products go hand in hand with good business performance.

"Design for Profit" is the campaign slogan, which is backed up by £3,000,000 to be allocated over three years to small firms. At the start of a new project, companies can apply for the free services of design consultants for 15 days, and a further 15 days at half cost. The scheme has its imperfections but it must generate more work for designers.

Industrial design is not just a matter of improving the shape of machine tools or fork-lift trucks. It is central to everyday living. An industrial designer might work on a bus shelter, plastic toys, food packaging, motor bike or even Concorde.

Unfortunately, too many people are aware of the need for good design only when it fails. Commentators on the new trains on the Bedford line have complained of claustrophobia, too-backed seats and the dark colour scheme have been blamed. Designing sliding doors with windows so low that passengers have to stoop to see names of the stations seems to be a blunder.

Good design is copied worldwide. An innovative food-mixer design from the 1960s is still being adapted by many other companies as the basis for their new models. A surprising number of Japanese products have a UK designer's ideas and talents of UK designers.

Industrial product design demands a host of skills. Students not

only have to draw, they have to be able to communicate with all the other members of the product team from marketing managers to toolmakers. Since there is no guarantee that designers need to be able to sell their ideas. While the marketing manager will be impressed by an easy-to-handle, value-for-money approach, the toolmaker will look for a design which creates an efficient, clean, safe product. Sometimes these demands will conflict and the designer has to be supremely flexible, even thick-skinned. Prima donnas are not wanted.

Team work extends to the design consultancies. Multi-disciplinary design teams can be found there as well as in industry. After a training in graphics or textiles it is quite possible to work in a three-dimensional team on projects as diverse as furniture or offshore structures.

Industrial design is all about problem-solving. A design must be produced on time and it has to take account of all the functional, ergonomic factors as well as aesthetic considerations. The best designers discard the conventional approach and seek out fresh ways of tackling a problem. Modern technology is helping. Solid modelers and computer-aided design let product designers visualize their projects in true 3D.

Product designers have to be expert in the properties of their materials, whether plastic, wood or ceramics. They have to grapple with costing and storage as well as production problems. From the drawing board, their brainchild is translated into a model and finally into a prototype before the factory swings into full production. The complexities of the job are such that an increasing number of industrial and product designers are graduates.

Together the engineer and the designer have produced battery-operated computers weighing less than 7lb. Some can be used out of doors by an operator with gloved hands. Ten years ago computers weighed tons and demanded air conditioned palaces. It took both high technology and design skills to overcome the problem. The leader of the design team that produces a new computer will almost certainly be an engineer. But a team working on a new packaging product is more likely to be directed by a designer.

It is generally agreed that the greater the engineering input, the greater is the responsibility of the

design engineer. In a less complex product, the designer bears the brunt of the problems.

Degree courses for industrial designers may be in product design or in industrial design (engineering). Many students interested in design ask whether they should first train as engineers, and then add on design courses or become designers with an interest in engineering applications. It is probably easier for an engineer to take postgraduate design courses than for a designer to become a professional engineer but some courses are attempting to blend the two. First degrees in industrial design in the polytechnics are looking for students with a thorough grounding in physical sciences. The Polytechnic of the South Bank in London has developed an engineering

Collaboration with the Royal College of Art

product design degree, while Coventry Polytechnic's BA in industrial design transportation looks for students who can grasp aerodynamics before they start to design vehicle bodies.

The universities are actively involved in the engineering applications of design at higher degree level. It is encouraging that Imperial College is collaborating with the Royal College of Art. And 1984 one postgraduate student will actually be sponsored by industry.

To help students make this difficult choice the Design Council, in the latest edition of its booklet, *Design Courses in Britain*, is listing engineering courses with a significant design content.

For students who blanch at the idea of four or five years of studying after A-level or H-grade examinations, vocational courses have been developed. They are designed for students with O passes and last for two years; in England and Wales they are often preceded by an exploratory foundation year. BTEC and SCOTEC are responsible for the administration of these full-time courses. Young designers have to be aware of grants problems on these courses as the awards from education authorities are discretionary. As a result most students cannot afford to live away from home.

Certainly young designers can expect to take longer over finding a first post than many other students. But recent surveys show that graduates in design are doing as well as engineers in finding related work and that the starting salaries for the talented are comparable.

Some design consultancies are booming. Three of the biggest have recently become public companies. Altogether the climate begins to look more promising. Some would argue that is a disgrace that the state has had to promote designers. But if their campaign creates more awareness and more work, then final-year students will not figure among the grumblers.

Expert in properties of their materials

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University Appointments

University of Swansea

Fixed Term Lecturer

Applications are invited for a Fixed Term Lecturer in Applied Mathematics in the Department of Mathematics. The Department has research interests in the following areas of applied mathematics: probability, quantum theory, hydrodynamics and computer graphics.

The appointment, which will be for five years, will be at the lower end of the scale £17,190 - £21,125 per annum, depending on experience.

Further particulars and application forms (2 copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University of Swansea, Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom applications should be sent by Friday, May 18, 1984.

UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA
CHAIR IN ECONOMICS

Applications are invited for a Chair in Economics in the School of Economic and Social Studies, in succession to Professor A. Schweitzer. The post is a restriction of field within economics but applicants will be expected to have one or more specialisms as well as broadly based interests in the discipline. The appointment will be at an appropriate point on the Professional scale £17,275 to £21,160 (under review) and will be tenable from January 1985 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Applicants (five copies), giving full particulars of age, qualifications and experience, together with the names and addresses of three persons to whom reference may be made should be lodged with the Registrar and Secretary, University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ (telephone 0603 56161 ext 2208) from whom further particulars may be obtained, not later than 15 June 1984. No forms of application are issued.

UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA
CHAIR IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

Applications are invited for a Chair in English Literature in the School of English and American Studies.

The successful candidate will be expected to provide academic leadership in a group of more than twenty academic staff, and to promote links with other subjects in an interdisciplinary manner. The post is a restriction of field within English literature but applicants will be expected to have one or more specialisms as well as broadly based interests in the discipline. The appointment will be at an appropriate point on the Professional scale £17,275 to £21,160 (under review) and will be tenable from April 1985.

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Imperial College of Science and Technology

LECTURESHIPS

Applications are invited for the following Lectureships available from 1 October 1984.

1. DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING - Declarative Languages: Computer Architecture. To play key role in expanding the Department's expertise in parallel architecture for declarative languages. Hardware expertise will be an important asset.

2. DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING - Software Engineering and IKS. To act as a bridge between the strong groups already in existence in the Department in each of these areas. Interests will probably relate to the application of IKS technology to software engineering, for example in the use of logic based tools and databases for programming support.

3. DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING - Man Machine Interfaces. Cognitive aspects of information systems; speech technology.

Candidates must not currently hold a permanent university appointment in the United Kingdom. Appointment will be at an appropriate point on the Lecturer scale £9,375 - £15,311 including London Allowance (under review). Further particulars of these appointments from the Personnel Secretary, Imperial College, London SW7 2AZ, 01-589 5111 ext 2003, to whom applications with curriculum vitae, list of publications and names of two referees should be sent by 25 May 1984.

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON
QUEEN ELIZABETH COLLEGE/
CHELSEA COLLEGE

Post of Librarian

The three Colleges, which are in the process of merging, are appointing a joint Librarian to take up the post on 1 October 1984, and who will become Librarian of the merged College when a single institution has been formed. The job is therefore, initially, to plan the disposal of Library resources within the three Colleges and to coordinate the services which currently exist on the various sites. In the longer term, the Librarian will be responsible for a fully integrated Library service, with a single budget, serving the single College, King's College London (KCL). The post is in Grade IV for Senior Library Staff, currently £17,275 p.a. minimum, plus £1,186 p.a. London Allowance.

In view of the range of responsibilities outlined above, it is expected that the successful applicant will have had extensive experience at a senior level in a University Library.

Applications to the Personnel Secretary (KQCC), c/o King's College London, Strand, London, WC2R 2LS, from whom an application form and further particulars are available. (Tel: 01-856 5454, ext 2268). Closing date for completed applications: Tuesday 29 May 1984.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

Appointment of VICE-CHANCELLOR

The University intends to appoint a Vice-Chancellor in succession to Professor J. M. Roberts. It is hoped that the appointment will be made with effect from 1 September 1985.

Information about the appointment may be obtained on request. In addition the Chairman of Council will be pleased to receive letters suggesting the names of individuals who might be considered for the post. In either case letters - marked 'Confidential' - should be addressed to:

Sir Bernard Miller, MA, LL.D, FCIS, Chairman of Council, The University of Southampton, Southampton, SO9 5NH

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

University Assistant Lecturer

Applications are invited for the post of University Assistant Lecturer in the Faculty of Classics. The successful candidate will be expected to provide academic leadership in a group of more than twenty academic staff, and to promote links with other subjects in an interdisciplinary manner. The post is a restriction of field within Classics but applicants will be expected to have one or more specialisms as well as broadly based interests in the discipline. The appointment will be at an appropriate point on the Professional scale £17,275 to £21,160 (under review) and will be tenable from April 1985.

Applicants (five copies), giving full particulars of age, qualifications and experience, together with the names and addresses of three persons to whom reference may be made should be lodged with the Registrar and Secretary, University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ (telephone 0603 56161 ext 2208) from whom further particulars may be obtained, not later than 15 June 1984. No forms of application are issued.

THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST
NEW LECTURESIPS

Applications are invited for the following Lectureships available from 1 October 1984.

1. DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING. This post is in the Department of Chemical Engineering. The duties of a person appointed to this post will be to provide academic leadership in a group of more than twenty academic staff, and to promote links with other subjects in an interdisciplinary manner. The post is a restriction of field within Chemical Engineering but applicants will be expected to have one or more specialisms as well as broadly based interests in the discipline. The appointment will be at an appropriate point on the Professional scale £17,275 to £21,160 (under review) and will be tenable from April 1985.

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U.K. HOLIDAYS

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CAMP BEAUMONT. American. Tel: 01-498 0481

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ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE. Tel: 01-498 0481

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Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

- 6.00 **Cee-eez** AM.
Breakfast Time with Selina Scott and Mike Smith. News from Farm Britain at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the front page; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; television preview at 8.55; review of the morning newspapers at 7.18 and 8.18; film and pop record reviews between 7.45 and 8.00; **Gardeners' World** (shown last Friday), 9.25 Praise Bel Thorne with a selection of hymns (shown yesterday), 10.00. **Cee-eez**, 10.30 Play School, presented by Chloe Ashcroft (11.05 Cee-eez).
- 12.30 **News After Noon** with Richard Whimster and Frances Coverdale. The weather prospects come from Ian McCaskill, 12.57 Regional News (London and SE only: Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles.) 1.00 **Pebble Mill At One**. Among the guests are Peter Ustinov and the Maharani of Jaipur, 1.45 **Hockey Cee-eez**. A See-Saw programme for the very young (1).
- 2.00 **Living on the Land**. The story of John Butler and his wife who farm three acres at Bicker Fen, Lincolnshire (1.25). In Search of... William the Conqueror. Michael Wood searches for the famous invader in Normandy and the last in the series (1). 2.20 A Fair Sate on the River. The story of the raft race down the River Wye from Hay to Chepstow, 3.53 Regional News (Mid London).
- 3.55 **Play School**, presented by Carol Cullum, 4.20 The All New Poppy Show. Cartoons featuring the indestructible salt, 4.40 **Lassie**. Adventures of a canny canine, 5.00 **Newsround** with Paul McEwan, 5.05 **Blue Peter**. Janet Elks with a preview of the exhibition, due to open soon at the Imperial War Museum that tells the story of the Resistance during the Nazi occupation of Europe, 5.35 **The Wombles** (1).
- 5.40 **Sixty Minutes** begins with news from Frances Coverdale followed by weather at 5.54 and regional magazines at 5.55. News headlines are at 5.55.
- 6.40 **Roll Harris Cartoon Time**.
- 7.10 **A Ring and a Prayer**. Glyn Worsnip reports on some of the more bizarre ideas that have come to fruition in the United States on the subject of aviation.
- 7.55 **Points of View**. Barry Took dips into the BBC's postbag.
- 8.10 **Phonograms: The Coal War**. Jeremy Paxman talks to Durham miners.
- 8.00 **A Party Political Broadcast** on behalf of the SDP/Liberal Alliance.
- 9.10 **News with Sue Lawley**.
- 9.35 **Life With a Badge** (1981) starring Eileen Brennan and Pernell Roberts. Drama about a married couple who move to a small town in Wyoming. Appalled by the lack of law enforcement the wife decides to run for sheriff. Only then does she realise the extent of the corruption in the police department, but it is when she discovers the person behind the corruption that her troubles really begin. Directed by Jay Taylor. (First showing on British television).
- 11.05 **Film 84** with Barry Norman includes a review of the psychological thriller, **The Dead Zone**.
- 11.35 **News headlines**.
- 11.40 **Tom Jones Now!** The energetic singer's guest is Isaac Hayes.
- 12.05 **Weather**.

TV-am

- 6.25 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Anne Diamond and John Stapleton. News from Jayne Irving at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 6.35 and 7.35; financial advice at 6.40 and 8.45; exercises at 8.50 and 9.15; the day's anniversaries at 7.05 and 8.05; a guest in the Spotlight at 7.25; cartoon at 7.25; guest of the day, Peggy Mount, at 7.40; the Bluebelts pop video at 7.55; star romance at 8.15; Jimmy Savile's television highlights at 8.35; the TV-am doctors discuss ailments at 8.03.

ITV/LONDON

- 9.25 **Thames news headlines**, 9.30 **For Schools**: Part one of an Indian folk tale, 9.47 **Learning to read** with Basil Brush, 9.58 **How plants, animals and humans behave** in Spring and Summer, 10.11 **Basic maths**: odds and evens, 10.31 **The English Programme**, 11.00 **Area Games**, 7.20 **Schools**: **Control 7.45** **Aluminium** in Lymington. Closedown at 8.10.
- 9.00 **Cee-eez**.
- 2.30 **World Snooker**. The tenth day of the Embassy World Professional Snooker Championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. Before the action begins at 3.00 David Vine has news of the competition to win tickets for the Sunday and Monday final. The session begins with the matches involving John Parrott, the unseeded player who knocked out the fourth seed, Tony Knowles, and Cliff Thorburn.
- 2.00 **Friday Night Theatre** (1952) starring Valeria Hobson, Nigel Patrick and George Cole. Farce about class consciousness set in a room in St. James's Palace. Directed by Anthony Kilmartin, 3.30 **Miracles Take Longer**. Drama series set in a community advice centre.
- 4.00 **Gemmen and Spinach**. A repeat of the programme shown at noon, 4.15 **Aubrey**, 4.20 **The Incredible Hulk**, 4.45 **Danger - Marmalade Works** (Oracle titles page 170), 5.00 **Dangerous** meets Nero the centipede, 5.15 **Emmerdale Farm**.
- 5.45 **News**, 5.50 **Thames news**, 6.25 **Help! Community action news** from Viv Taylor Goss.
- 6.35 **Coastwards**. Jill gives Adam Chance a preview of the reluctant to accept while Joe MacDonald discovers something worrying.
- 7.00 **What's My Line?** Eamonn Andrews introduces people with odd occupations to the panel of Ernie Wise, Jilly Cooper, Patrick Mower, Barbara Kelly and George Gale.
- 7.30 **Coronation Street**. Jack Duckworth runs the day he decided not to buy a television licence; and the Tiesley's have a bit of trouble with the vicar.
- 8.00 **The Kix Current Radio Show**. Comedy series of an ailing radio station and in particular its star disc jockey. Starring Denis Lawson (Oracle titles page 170).
- 8.30 **World in Action**.
- 9.00 **A Party Political Broadcast** on behalf of the SDP/Liberal Alliance.
- 9.10 **Best Sellers: Valley of the Dolls**. Part two of glossy drama about Hollywood high life (1) (Oracle titles page 170).
- 10.00 **News**.
- 10.30 **Best Sellers: Valley of the Dolls**. The final episode (Oracle titles page 170) (1).
- 12.25 **Night Thoughts** from the Rev Dr James Beattie, an Anglican priest, on the Oberammergau Passion Play.



Andrew Rasthagh: Acceptable Levels (Channel 4, 10.00pm)

Five down, three to go. Beryl Bainbridge's eight-part odyssey **ACCEPTABLE LEVELS** (BBC2, 7.20pm) has now got well and truly into its stride. And Miss Bainbridge, who is now to this kind of thing, has got into her stride. What is clear is that she is not inhibited by the formidable shadow of J.B. Priestley that follows wherever she goes, and it has never stood so close to her as it does in tonight's film, because this is the one in which Miss Bainbridge visits Priestley's home town of Bradford. His old house does not have a commemorative plaque outside. There is a vague reference to a love-hate relationship between the city and its famous son, and the omission is left at that. In fact, you will note a general reluctance to doff caps in Priestley's direction in the whole of tonight's film, except for a visit to his old

school (97 per cent of its intake are Asians) and a bus ride across his beloved Dales (still 100 per cent Yorkshire). Instead, Miss Bainbridge concentrates on the social and educational repercussions of Bradford's ever-growing immigrant population; the decline and fall of the Wool Exchange (venue of an antiques market one day a week, and, on two others, a meeting place for reminiscing merchants who read *The Times*); the city's chief executive whose belief in equality for women comes to a grinding halt at his own front door; and a tourists' guide, a startlingly photogenic girl of Polish origin, with whom Miss Bainbridge assiduously does not discuss the Brontës

although they sit and chat in the Haworth churchyard that is only yards away from where the Brontës' mortal remains lie mouldering.

Other highlights: John Davies's thought-provoking film **ACCEPTABLE LEVELS** (Channel 4, 10.00pm) in which local people in West Belfast and imported actors are so carefully stitched together that the seams scarcely show; and **GOING ON** (BBC1, 8.15pm) Maureen O'Brien's play, in which Miss O'Brien as a sorely-tried daughter plays second fiddle to Patricia Hayes's nagging toothache of a mother. As drama, the play does not develop too well, but as a study of cruelty fuelled by self-pity, it will take a lot of beating.

Peter Davalle

BBC 2

- 6.05 **Open University: Music**. Harmony 6.30 **Luminescence and Spectroscopy** 6.55 **Maths**: Area Games 7.20 **Schools**: **Control 7.45** **Aluminium** in Lymington. Closedown at 8.10.
- 9.00 **Cee-eez**.
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- 12.25 **Night Thoughts** from the Rev Dr James Beattie, an Anglican priest, on the Oberammergau Passion Play.

CHANNEL 4

- 5.00 **Countdown**. Another round of the fast-moving anagrams and mental arithmetic competition. Winner of the past six consecutive rounds, accountant Sydney Price of Coventry faces his seventh challenge. Richard Whitley, assisted by Gyles Brandstetter.
- 5.30 **Jopardy**. Quiz game with a twist. The competitors, who are given an answer by Derek Hobson and they have to supply the question.
- 6.00 **Here's Lucy**. The scatterbrained heroine has to prove her head for height. When she is challenged by her new employer to a race up a mountain, if she loses she will also lose her job.
- 6.30 **Coping**. The third programme in the series about how people survive crises in their lives is about Maurice and his alcohol addiction. He began drinking when a teenager and sailor and only decided to attend a centre for alcoholics and drug abuse when he thought that he might lose his daughter. He explains how the centre helped him to cope with his problem and how it is a ray of hope for others in the same position as him.
- 7.00 **Channel Four News** with Peter Sissons.
- 7.50 **Comment**. With a pertinent view of a topical subject is Frances Morris, leader of the Inner London Education Authority.
- 8.00 **Henry Cooper's Golden Belt**. The final of the Inter-city Boys' Clubs Boxing Challenge between Liverpool and Manchester. Henry Cooper, as usual, talks to the young men in the dressing rooms before the bouts and to their parents at the ringside, Liverpool, boxing on their own patch - the Kirkdale Community Centre - hope to upset the strong favourites, Manchester. Helping Henry Cooper to choose the Best Young Boxer of the evening is Errol Christie. The commentator is Dave Brenner.
- 8.00 **Art**. The first of a new eight-part series about the Dark Continent. Beryl Bainbridge reveals the drama of African history with the help of archive film, illustrated eyewitness accounts, dramatic reconstructions, colour graphics, stills and a documentary film of festivals and ceremonies.
- 10.00 **Film: Acceptable Levels** (1983) starring Anne Rasthagh, Guy Adams and Sally McCarthy. A made-for-television drama about a TV documentary team film the presence in West Belfast of a little child, killed by a British Army plastic bullet. Directed by John Davies.
- 11.55 **Closedown**.

Radio 4

- 6.00 **News briefing**: Weather, 6.10 **Farming week**, 6.20 **Today**, 6.45 **Prime Time Live**, 7.00 **News**, 7.25 **8.25**, 8.50 **Sport** 7.45 **Thought for the day**.
- 8.35 **The Week on 4**. A look ahead. 8.45 **Glyn Worsnip** in the BBC Sound Archives, 8.55 **Weather**, 9.00 **News**.
- 9.05 **Start the week with Richard Baker and studio guests**.
- 10.00 **Morning Story** (1). The story of a man who has made life difficult for everybody around her, and who is impossible to like. The role of her daughter, Maggie, is played by Miss O'Brien herself. With Jane Barrie and Arthur Kelly.
- 9.30 **Kaleidoscope**: Topics include Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, at the Royal Exchange in Manchester.
- 10.15 **A Book at Bedtime**: "Naples 44" by Norman Lewis (8). Read by John Gielgud.
- 10.30 **The World Tonight**: Headlines.
- 11.15 **The Financial World**. 11.30 **Today in Parliament**. 12.00 **News**. 12.15 **Close**. Shipping.
- England VHF as above except: 8.25-8.30 **Weather**, 8.30-8.45 **Silver Spoons**, 8.45-9.00 **Listening Room**, 9.00-9.15 **Study On 4**: Dreams of

Radio 3

- 6.55 **Weather**, 7.00 **News**.
- 7.05 **Morning Concert**: Berlioz's *Symphony No. 3* (BBC). Read by John Gielgud.
- 8.05 **Concert**: Part two. Strauss's *Metamorphosen*; Casella's *Symphony No. 4* (BBC). Read by John Gielgud.
- 9.05 **The Week's Composer**: Arnold Schoenberg. The Verklärte Nacht, Op. 4 for string sextet, and Variations for Orchestra, Op. 31. Variations for Piano Duo: Brahms's Variations on a Theme of Schumann; and Orson's Sonata in F minor. Played by David Owen Norris and Erik Levi.
- 10.50 **Arms and Boyes**: Arms's Symphony No. 2; and Boyes's Concerto Grosso in E minor for Strings.
- 11.15 **Andrés Soler** plays the Violin Sonata No. 1.
- 11.55 **Edward Downes Conducts**: BBC Philharmonic Orchestra with Miles Sackel (cello), Walter's *Scherzo* overture; Martin's Cello Concerto No. 1; and Tchaikovsky's *Francesca da Rimini*, Op. 32. 11.55 **BBC Luminance Concert**: Liza, Schmitt, Tchaikovsky, and Rachmaninov read by Elizabeth Sutherland (soprano) with Roger Vignoles at the piano. Includes Schmitt's *Les Éléments*, and Schubert's *Gretchen am Spinnrade*.
- 2.00 **Music Weekly**: Includes Julian Budden on Verdi's opera *The Sicilian Vespers*, and a conversation with Christopher Page.
- 2.50 **New Records**: Lindbergh's *Concerto in G minor* (Moravec/Czech Philharmonic); Grieg's *Lyrical Suite*; Zabel's *Arche*; and Schumann's *Symphony No. 2*.
- 5.00 **Where's the Music?** Includes Julian Budden on Verdi's opera *The Sicilian Vespers*, and a conversation with Christopher Page.
- 6.30 **Music for Children**: John Langdon in Paisley Abbey plays works by Purcell and John Lisleigh (Six Fantasy on Hyem Tunes).
- 7.00 **Jenifer**: Elizabeth Sutherland sings the role in Janáček's opera, sung in Czech. With Marie Mrazova (Grandmother), Lucia Popp (Karlotta) and Peter

Radio 2

- News on the hour. Major bulletins: 7.00am, 8.00am, 9.00am and 12.00pm. News headlines, 5.30am, 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 (midweek), 4.00pm BBC. 12.00 **News**. 12.15 **News**. 12.30 **News**. 12.45 **News**. 1.00 **News**. 1.15 **News**. 1.30 **News**. 1.45 **News**. 2.00 **News**. 2.15 **News**. 2.30 **News**. 2.45 **News**. 3.00 **News**. 3.15 **News**. 3.30 **News**. 3.45 **News**. 4.00 **News**. 4.15 **News**. 4.30 **News**. 4.45 **News**. 5.00 **News**. 5.15 **News**. 5.30 **News**. 5.45 **News**. 6.00 **News**. 6.15 **News**. 6.30 **News**. 6.45 **News**. 7.00 **News**. 7.15 **News**. 7.30 **News**. 7.45 **News**. 8.00 **News**. 8.15 **News**. 8.30 **News**. 8.45 **News**. 9.00 **News**. 9.15 **News**. 9.30 **News**. 9.45 **News**. 10.00 **News**. 10.15 **News**. 10.30 **News**. 10.45 **News**. 11.00 **News**. 11.15 **News**. 11.30 **News**. 11.45 **News**. 12.00 **News**. 12.15 **News**. 12.30 **News**. 12.45 **News**. 1.00 **News**. 1.15 **News**. 1.30 **News**. 1.45 **News**. 2.00 **News**. 2.15 **News**. 2.30 **News**. 2.45 **News**. 3.00 **News**. 3.15 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